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HOMES & Gardens

Ogmore Vale burglars receive jail sentence

A COUPLE who committed three burglaries on the same night in Ogmore Vale were put behind bars when they appeared at Cardiff Crown Court.

Jonathan Davies, 31, and Sadie Hoyle, 28, were

told by judge Eleri Rees: "These were people from your own community who were asleep in their beds."

"Clearly, you went from door to door and took whatever you could find."

The pair, both from John Street, Nantymoel, admitted three charges of burglary.

Davies was jailed for three-and-a-half years, and his co-defendant was given two years.

The court heard they had been in a relationship since 2016.

Prosecutor Emma Harris said the break-ins took place on October 20. The first was in Water Street, where the victim woke at 4am and found

by AJ Sicluna

his iPad, watch, bank cards and mobile phone had gone.

The second, said Ms Harris, took place in St John Street when a handbag containing a purse, cash and bank cards was taken.

The final burglary took place in the same street when again a handbag, bank cards, and documents were taken.

Three days later, they were arrested and some of the stolen property was discovered in their home.

Hoyle, the court heard, had convictions for 19 offences including theft and Davies had 55 previous convictions.

Solicitor Robert Chudleigh, for Davies, said he was full of remorse and Rhodri Chudleigh, for Hoyle, pointed out that none of her convictions were for burglary.

Green energy park adds another string to its bow

THE 'green energy' complex at Parc Stormy, Stormy Down, operated by Cenin Renewables, has added another enterprise to its existing complex.

The energy storage developer and smart energy management company KiWi Power has made a multi-million pound investment in a huge smart battery system that will store power and release it at the most suitable time.

The new business was opened by the chair of Pyle Community Council, Cllr Kay John, who cut the traditional red ribbon!

Martin Popham of Cenin Renewables said: "This is all about having green energy in reserve and we are delighted to be working with KiWi Power."

For more details on this new development at Parc Stormy, see page 6.



Martin Popham, managing director of Cenin Renewables (left) looks on as Cllr Kay John cuts the ribbon. On the right is Yoav Zinger, CEO of KiWi Power.

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Drop-in session next week on Porthcawl's £3m 'prom scheme'

AS work begins on the lower prom of Porthcawl's town beach, a drop-in information session has been arranged to keep residents and visitors up to date with the £3m scheme.

The session, which has been organised by contractor Alun Griffiths, will take place at the Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl on Tuesday, February 27 between 3.30pm and 7pm, and will include a chance to ask questions and view an artist's impression of what the finished project will look like.

Intended to replace ageing sea defences at the town's 'tarmac beach' and to protect 260 seafront properties and businesses from flooding and coastal erosion, the work will introduce an attractive, all-new terraced design with a sand-coloured surface.

The information session will also coincide with a closure of the lower prom in order to allow large sections of sea wall to be removed and replaced.

Cllr Richard Young, cabinet member for communities, said: "The town beach is going to become an increasingly busy site over the next few months. "Residents and visitors can expect to see the excavation of the existing beach area, repairs and surfacing work on the access ramps, the installation of all-new concrete terraces, repointing and repairs to the existing sea wall, the construction of protective 'rock armour', and more. "Every effort will be made to minimise inconvenience while the work is under way, and the project will also deliver additional benefits, including new jobs and training opportunities, as well as support for local businesses."

Cllr Young added: "Come along to the information session at the Grand Pavilion to find out more, or visit community.alungriffiths.co.uk for further details."

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Specsavers Maesteg helps brain charity



LEFT TO RIGHT:
Sian and Isaac
Taylor, Kevin
McCarthy and Paul
Molton of
Specsavers, Chris
Jones of Cerebra.

LEFT TO RIGHT:
Kevin McCarthy, West
Wales regional chair
of Specsavers, Chris
Jones, CEO at
Cerebra, Paul Molton,
East Wales regional
chair at Specsavers.

SPECSAVERS has donated £10,000 to Cerebra, a charity supporting children with brain conditions, to mark the start of a year-long fundraising partnership.

The Maesteg store, together with other stores in south and mid Wales, will be raising additional funds over the next 12 months for Cerebra's support services and research work.

The opticians on Talbot Street in Maesteg is joining forces with 38 other Specsavers stores across south and mid Wales to raise additional funds for Cerebra's support services and research work, with plans afoot for fancy dress days and a 220-mile cycle-thon.

The donation was presented to Cerebra's chief executive, Chris Jones, on February 15 when Specsavers' staff from across the region visited Cerebra's Innovation Centre in Swansea.

During the visit, staff saw products the charity has designed to make life easier, more inclusive and fun for children with brain conditions and also met with three families the charity supports to see first-hand how its services are positively impacting on families in Wales and the rest of the UK.

Simon Morris, Specsavers store director in Maesteg, said: "Cerebra is a remarkable charity that does incredible work to improve the lives of children with brain conditions, which we saw first-hand at the launch of this partnership.

"The advice and information it provides to families goes far beyond leaflet sharing, with the charity giving practical help and guidance to families to help them get the financial and social support they need.

"We're always striving to support organisations making a positive impact on our community and Cerebra is doing just that."

Cerebra has been working with families who have children with brain conditions since 2001 and is currently supporting 4,500 families across Wales, with thousands more accessing information through their website.

Mr Morris added: "We always enjoy raising money for charity and can't wait to build on that initial £10,000 donation with our neighbouring Specsavers stores."

Cerebra's vision is that every family that has a child with a brain condition will have the chance to discover a better life together.

By listening to what families want and need, they can inspire the best research and innovation, and offer a range of support services to help families put that knowledge into practice.

They help families of children up to 16 years old with a range of neurodevelopmental disorders such as cerebral palsy, autistic spectrum disorders, genetic disorders and traumatic brain injuries.

Chris Jones, chief executive of Cerebra, said: "Families where a child has a brain condition face challenges every day – just to learn, play, make friends, enjoy and experience the world can be difficult, even impossible.

"We are very grateful to Specsavers for their generous support and are excited that they joining us on this rewarding journey to work wonders for children with brain conditions."

Defibrillator stolen from railway station

A VITAL piece of lifesaving equipment has been stolen from Bridgend Railway Station.

The theft of the defibrillator took place some time between February 7 and February 9 from its site on Platform 2 of the station.

Witnesses or anyone who has any information concerning the theft are urged to contact the British Transport Police.

The public access defibrillator has played a crucial part in keeping people safe and some months ago was used to help save the life of a man who had collapsed a short distance from the station.

Bridgend is Wales' fifth busiest station and in 2016/17 it saw more than 1.5 million people passing through it.

Sgt Stephen Dawkins of the BTP said: "This was

a mindless theft of emergency lifesaving equipment which could be crucial to saving lives.

"The fact it did save a life not so long ago is testament to just what an important part it plays, not just on the station, but in the community too.

"If you do know anything at all about this theft, please contact the BTP on 0800 40 50 40."

Thomas Owens, who manages Bridgend station for Arriva Trains Wales added: "The defibrillator is key to saving lives. We know that if you suffer a heart attack, getting medical attention quickly is crucial, so we were all bitterly disappointed at this theft and would call on anyone who might know something to contact the BTP."

Townswomen's Guild latest

THIS is an important year for Townswomen, as it is 100 years since the vote was given to women over the age of 30.

It was not until 1928 that all women over 21 had the vote and in that year Townswomen's Guilds began, partly to educate women to use the vote. It is interesting to note that in 1918, women over 21 could stand for Parliament but were not allowed the vote.

A statue will shortly be erected in Parliament Square to honour Millicent Fawcett, a leader in the suffrage movement.

Our next meeting is on March 14 at 2pm at All Saints' Church Hall and is our AGM. All welcome to come and hear what we got up to over the past year!

Dorothy Thomas

Hearing aid help

A SERVICE for deaf and hard of hearing people in Bridgend has been launched by Action on Hearing Loss Cymru.

The Hear to Help service will enable people to receive free NHS hearing aid repairs and maintenance in local libraries, community centres and through home visits. This will be provided by volunteers trained by local audiology departments – many of whom will be hearing aid users themselves.

The service has monthly clinics running in Pencoed and the charity is looking for new volunteers to expand the service into more areas.

The clinic runs at Pencoed Library, 54 Penybot Road, Pencoed, Bridgend CF35 5RA on the third Monday of every month (2pm-4pm) and starts on March 19. For more information on clinics or volunteering, visit actiononhearingloss.org.uk/wales.

Better use for £1.5m?

A UKIPAM believes almost £1.5 million invested in improving the Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) offices could have been better spent.

South Wales West AM Caroline Jones said there have been good examples of the Welsh Government's 'Invest to Save Fund' being used to improve the lives of people in her region, citing two in Neath Port Talbot and Swansea as examples, but she told First Minister Carwyn Jones: "The biggest investment of nearly £1.5 million was used to improve the offices of Bridgend Council.

"Surely the scheme should prioritise areas that are suffering as a result of council cutbacks.

"Swansea Council has a £56 million backlog of road repairs. It is believed that insurance pay-outs and compensation claims will skyrocket as a result of the repair backlog. Investing in repairs now

will save more money in the longer term.

"What consideration have you given to allowing the scheme to be used to make vital repairs that truly benefit the public, rather than those that benefit elected councillors?"

Mr Jones, who represents Bridgend in the National Assembly, said that since 2009, the government have invested nearly £175 million in a wide range of projects across Wales, including over £12 million in south Wales west.

He told Ms Jones: "This is a way in which public money makes a difference, and I'm surprised that UKIP can't bring themselves to praise that."

The Invest to Save Fund is a short-term pool of resources available to help public service organisations transform the way they work, and supports the introduction of ways of working that help them become more efficient and effective.

Report by Michael Prosser

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MARCH 1)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
22 Thur	10.21	9.0	22.49	8.7
23 Fri	11.20	8.6	23.47	8.3
24 Sat			12.29	8.1
25 Sun	01.08	8.0	13.53	7.9
26 Mon	02.36	8.2	15.22	8.4
27 Tues	03.57	8.5	16.31	8.8
28 Wed	04.59	9.3	17.29	9.5
01 Thur	05.53	9.9	18.22	10.0

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

If you have a complaint, write to us at the address below, left, or call Gareth Jamieson on 01446 774484. All complaints will be fully investigated. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may wish to contact IPSO, Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London EC4M 7LG

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Tel: 01446 774484 • Fax: 01446 774108

FACEBOOK: GlamorganGEM / TWITTER: gem_news • GEMSportNews

General Manager: jan.irving@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

News Submissions: editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Editorial enquiries: gareth.jamieson@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Tim Chapman tim.chapman@glamorgan-gem.co.uk / TWITTER @TimGlamorganGEM

Philip Irwin philip.irwin@glamorgan-gem.co.uk / TWITTER @PhilipGlamGEM

Andy Johnstone andy.johnstone@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Advertising/Distribution/Classified/Notices: sales@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Sales Manager: jan.irving@glamorgan-gem.co.uk • Sales: wendy.snatchfold@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk

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Maesteg duo scale three Welsh peaks in winter to help save local school

BRIDGEND businessman Brian Stokes is no stranger to a challenge.

The Afan Valley entrepreneur started his IT support business, ITCS in a small shop in Maesteg 14 years ago.

The company is now a multi award-winning national provider of business IT support and employs more than 40 staff in their south Wales office alone – including their very first employee, who is now a director of the business.

Growing the business has often been an uphill climb, but recently, accompanied by his long time friend, professional boxer

Geraint Goodridge, Brian took on a climb of a different kind – the Welsh Three Peaks Challenge.

The Three Peaks Challenge usually takes place in summer. However, Brian and Geraint's local school, Afan Comprehensive, is threatened with closure and urgently needs funds to mount a legal challenge.

With fundraising in mind, the two men decided to brave the elements and tackle the total mountain distance of 18 miles (29km) and a total ascent of 2,334 metres (7,657ft), in hazardous February weather.

Usually the challenge has to be completed in less than 24 hours, but the superfit duo decided to set themselves a target of completion within 12 hours, despite the added

challenge of doing it in heavy snow and freezing winter conditions.

The day of the challenge arrived in the middle of the coldest weekend of the winter.

With summit temperatures of -14°C, their aim to halve the challenge time allowed to climb Snowdon, Cadair Idris and Pen-y-Fan looked unlikely.

Nobody was expected to reach the summit of a snow and ice-covered Snowdon that day, so tackling three peaks and a considerable drive in inclement weather and braving freezing rain seemed an impossible task.

However, having already driven to north Wales the previous day, the brave duo decided to forge on with their planned ascent – and it wasn't easy.

Throughout much of their first climb, they could only see yards ahead, the path was not visible due to being covered in snow and ice and at points they were walking waist-deep in snow.

Getting caught off track several times, the pair had to rely on phone sat-nav to get back on track, and it was somewhat sobering to see that all the other footprints (and waist prints!) stopped half way up.

They were the first to make the summit that day, and had to carve steps into the ice to act as a ladder on the final part of the summit.

Brian had been instructed by his



Brian Stokes: 'It's vital to save the school.'

marketing team to take lots of photos, but the view from the summit was non-existent, and he wasn't keen to risk frostbite by exposing flesh at -14°C, so took a few moments of video footage and gladly put his gloves back on!

The other two mountains, while lower, were not much kinder. The steep climb up Cadair Idris was particularly challenging in driving, icy sleet which was extremely painful.

Determined to make the 12 hour window, the pair managed to save time via an 'off-piste' descent, aided by sliding on sheets of ice. Their original plan to run up Pen-y-Fan was somewhat thwarted due to exhaustion, but despite slowing to a walking pace, they still completed the challenge in under 12 hours, raising just under £1,400 to help the school fight the challenge.

The scale of their achievement was brought

home when two experienced climbers had to be rescued from Snowdon later that day – making their Three Peaks Challenge even more remarkable.

The duo are now recovering from their climb and preparing for their next task – the legal challenge to keep the school open.

Brian said: "Coming down Snowdon was eerie, the only footprints we saw were our own, and climbing back down the 'ice ladder' we had carved into the mountain was scary. One slip and we would have been in grave danger, but we had to keep pushing on.

"However, the real challenge, to stop the school from closing, is only just beginning. This school is a cornerstone of the Afan Valley community, so it is vitally important that we do all we can to save it. I'm proud we were able to play our part and we'll be helping the school in any way we can."

Geraint added: "I work hard to maintain my fight fitness and boxing training is extremely gruelling, so I was amazed at how physically challenging this climb was.

"As Brian says, the real fight to save the school is only just beginning. Afan Valley is a great school, coming sixth in the annual Real Schools Guide – and its closure would mean our children leaving home at 7am to reach the alternative school in Margam. It's a senseless decision, so I'm confident this is a fight we can win."

Cymmer Labour councillor Scott Jones praised the pair and said: "I'm proud of Brian and Geraint, two local residents, who have given phenomenal support to our campaign to save education in the Afan Valley.

"This closure would have an adverse impact on the health, wellbeing and education of our young people and we will fight it all the way. These funds will be a massive help."

Bridgend public meetings available as 'webcasts'

BRIDGEND County Borough residents with a keen eye on local issues will be able to watch webcasts of several public meetings being held this spring.

Bridgend County Borough Council has confirmed that the following meetings will be broadcast live online at www.bridgend.gov.uk, with recordings made available to be viewed on 'catch up'.

The meetings are: February 27, 2:30pm: Cabinet; February 28, 3pm, council; March 15, 10am, development control committee; March 27, 2:30pm, Cabinet.

Cllr Huw David, Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council said: "These meetings will give residents an insight into the current matters and future developments in Bridgend County Borough.

"Webcasting allows us to become even more transparent and is another way to engage with local residents."

The meetings will be transmitted live at www.bridgend.gov.uk, and will be recorded and archived so that residents can watch them at their convenience for up to 12 months.

Vale Council's 3.9% increase in council tax

With councils around Wales setting their council tax, the neighbouring Vale Council, which is Conservative-controlled, has opted for a 3.9 per cent council tax rise.

The council tax rise of 4.5 per cent proposed by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) will not be confirmed until the next full council meeting.

The same applies to the Vale rise. This will also be debated at the next full council meeting.

PLAY GOLF FOR KPC!

KPC Youth and Community are holding their 20th annual Charity Golf Day on Friday, June 22 at the Grove Golf Club, Porthcawl.

Team entry for teams of four is £160 per team (or take advantage of our Early Bird offer of just £140 if paid by end of April 2018).

Entry includes coffee on arrival, golf fees and a buffet meal following the round of golf and entry into a golf prize competition.

Come along for a great day's golf and the chance to support a local charity.

Sponsorship is also sought for raffle/auction prizes or £50 to sponsor a hole.

For team entry forms or more details, contact Alison on 01656 749219 or visit kpcyouth@hotmail.com.

Improvement is noted at Parc's young persons' unit

THE Young Persons' Unit at HMP & YOI Parc near Bridgend in South Wales has shown "quite significant improvement" in key aspects, including safety, in the past year, inspectors found.

Peter Clarke, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, said Parc had often received positive inspection results and he welcomed work by the management to turn around a deterioration in standards at the previous inspection in December 2016.

Parc held 43 boys up to the age of 18 at the time of the most recent inspection in October 2017. Publishing a report on the inspection, Mr Clarke said: "At our last visit we were disappointed to see some deterioration, with the institution becoming less safe and less respectful.

"At this inspection, however, it was clear to us that, with good leadership and a re-energised staff group, deterioration had been arrested and indeed quite significant improvement was evident."

Safety is a key challenge in all institutions for young people and recorded violence at the Parc unit, although falling, remained too high – though most incidents were low level. Linked to this, the unit needed to address boys' poor perceptions of safety and victimisation.

Nearly two-thirds of boys said they had been victimised by other boys. Despite this, inspection evidence "clearly indicated improvement in most aspects of safety," Mr Clarke said.

Boys were well received and correctly inducted into the unit, safeguarding and child protection procedures were more rigorous and the care for

those at risk of self-harm was much better.

Staff were supervising boys with much greater confidence. Behaviour management arrangements had been properly reviewed and now had a greater emphasis on motivation than sanctions. Security was proportionate and use of force was better managed.

Boys had good amounts of time out of their cells, with improved education and activities, and could eat communally in an ordered atmosphere, although few liked the food. The Parc unit was also cleaner.

There was a greater level of consultation with boys. However, more needed to be done to promote equality, which remained weak.

Mr Clarke said: "This is a good report. It was encouraging to see many of our previous recommendations attended to, which was to the great credit of the director and her staff, who had clearly worked very hard.

"Some very creative and caring approaches were seen in the work we inspected and we cited several examples of good practice. Staff were well trained, committed and confident, and it was clear to us that a firm platform for yet further progress was in place."

Michael Spurr, Chief Executive of HM Prison & Probation Service, said: "Parc has significantly improved the services it provides for young people, which is a credit to the director and her team.

"The challenges presented by the young people are considerable but there is a clear strategy in place to tackle violence and provide positive opportunities for change, which is commendable."

Newbold Solicitors

ANOTHER YEAR AND MORE NOMINATIONS

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Catherine Hartland states: 'I am very proud of the team we have here at Newbolds. I believe the awards give credence to the fact that you do not have to work in a large city, with prestigious offices (charging the high fees that go with that), to offer clients the very best service. Having a branch in Barry and being local to the Vale makes me especially proud of our achievements'.

The Barry office is based at 110 High Street and you can call their offices on 01446 700693. Their web site is being relaunched in March 2018 and its aim will be to make clients' lives easier to navigate and provide regular legal updates.

Presentation evening rounds off a successful year for Porthcawl's Swim and Carnival organisers

AS we reported in last week's GEM, last year in Porthcawl was marked by another successful Carnival and the 53rd Christmas Morning Swim (the biggest yet).

This culminated in £14,250 being donated to 26 local charities at the presentation event at the Hi Tide on February 9.

It was a busy night as local groups arrived to collect their donations.

Over 1,200 swimmers entered the sea on a fresh Christmas morning making 2017 the biggest swim yet and each swimmer received a commemorative mug.

Frank Murphy of the MacMillan Bridgend and District fundraising group accepted a cheque for £3,500, with Porthcawl Museum and Historical Society, Porthcawl Girl Guides and Porthcawl and Pyle Pumas Boxing Club among the other beneficiaries.



The swim and carnival committees with Frank Murphy of Macmillan.



ABOVE: Irene King presented a cheque to Jane Hawkins for the Guide Dogs.



ABOVE: Kay Smart received a cheque for the local Parkinson's support group from Graham Walter.

RIGHT: Aubrey Lewis



Sam Evans and Adrian Evans received a cheque on behalf of St John Ambulance.

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CAPITA

GRIFFITHS

Porthcawl Town Beach Scheme Public Information Evening

Come along, meet the team and learn more about the Porthcawl Town Beach Scheme.

Date: Tuesday, 27th February

Time: Informal drop-in between
3.30pm - 7.00pm

Venue: Grand Pavilion Cafe Area

At the information evening you will also have the opportunity to sign up to the email database which will enable you to receive regular updates on the project via email.

Alternatively, for general updates on the scheme please visit community.alungriffiths.co.uk

Star performance from STEM pupil

A STUDENT from Brynteg Comprehensive School in Bridgend has been selected to compete at the UK finals of a science and engineering competition after her exciting project caught the eye of judges.

Megan Hamilton will take her place in this year's 'The Big Bang UK Young Scientists and Engineers Competition' at Birmingham's NEC in March. Here, contestants will vie for top prizes, including the coveted title of UK Young Engineer and GSK UK Young Scientist of the Year.

Megan has been announced as one of the winners of the online heats at The Big Bang Fair, with the project entitled 'Networking Stars.'

The overall aim of her project was to make a network of stars using the *Gliese Catalogue of Nearby*

Stars, which contains 2,223 of the closest stars to our own sun. The initial motivation was to create a project which incorporated her interest of space and maths and used everyday mathematical methods, but applied on a much bigger scale.

Beth Elgood, director of communications, EngineeringUK, said: "Megan really impressed the judges with her project and we're excited to see how she does at the finals at the fair."

"Going into its tenth year, The Big Bang Fair continues to be a great source of STEM inspiration for young people, representing an amazing opportunity for young visitors, their teachers and parents to get hands-on with a wide range of activities, workshops and shows."

"They will engage in meaningful career conversations with professionals, all designed to bring classroom learning to life and inspire the next generation."



ABOVE: John Abraham with HRH The Princess Royal.



John and Marj Abraham.

JOHN Abraham, the chairman of Porthcawl RNLI committee has decided to retire following 20 successful years volunteering for the charity.

His role covered both the operational and fund raising committees at the station.

During his chairmanship it is estimated that over half a million pounds was raised locally for the charity.

The lifeboat has launched over one thousand times and saved numerous lives. John was supported throughout by his wife Marj who in her own right raised £70,000 selling tickets for quilts she would raffie each summer season.

Following his retirement in early February John reflected on his time involved with the RNLI. He said: "My first contact with Porthcawl lifeboat was through my father, one of the original 12 volunteers who formed the elected station committee in 1965."

"Then when our retirement brought us back to live in Porthcawl I was invited to join the fundraising committee, becoming chairman and later station chairman."

"I was struck, immediately, by the total commitment of all personnel in all aspects of the lifeboat service, our town should be proud of the

time and dedication shown by our volunteers."

There have been many happy times. The station personnel have had the privilege of royal visits from HRH Princess Anne, HRH Duke of Kent and many dignitaries over the years.

Just three years ago Porthcawl celebrated the station's 50th anniversary with an anniversary ball which was very successful and a credit to all volunteers.

John, who had been a deputy headteacher during his career, lives with Marj in Picton Avenue, Porthcawl. They have three sons, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Granddaughter Hannah served as a crew member at Porthcawl before moving from the town. When asked of his plans for retirement, John said he would like to do more beach fishing.

Lifeboat operations manager Philip Missen said: "John has been a great ambassador for our station, dedicating hours in so many varied ways for the betterment of us all. He has been a friend to us all and respected by all our volunteers."

College on shortlist for apprentice award

BRIDGEND COLLEGE is in the running for another award this year in the AAC Apprenticeships Award 2018.

FE Week and AELP will launch the inaugural awards at the next annual Apprenticeship Conference in Birmingham on March 22.

There are six categories that make up the award, with Bridgend College shortlisted regionally, as well as nationally for the 'Apprenticeship Provider of the Year' category.

A parliamentary reception will take place initially at the beginning of March where the regional winners will be announced. Each regional winner will attend the main event at the conference at the end of March, where the overall national winners will be awarded.

Matt Williams, director of apprenticeships and work-based learning at Bridgend College, said: "We are extremely proud to be one of three institutions flying the flag for Wales at the AAC UK Awards next month".

Visit the college's website for a full list of apprenticeship courses offered at www1.bridgend.ac.uk/apprenticeships/.

Spring Twmpath to be held at Wick

SUSTAINABLE Wick Community Group (SWCG) will hold its annual spring twmpath on Saturday, March 3.

As in previous years, it will be held in Wick and Marcross village hall with the dancing starting at 7.30pm and finishing at 10.30pm.

The event has provided the opportunity for people to come together for a fun evening of dancing and socialising. There will be a caller to guide everyone through the dances and the music will be provided by The Thingimijigs, a Vale *ceildh* band.

Ticket prices for the event are adults £7.50; 11-16s £3.50; and under-11s free (but accompanied by an adult) available from Mike Webb on 01656 890521, 07512 231801 or email mike.webb8@webbsofwick7.plus.com.

Free nibbles will be provided and soft drinks will be on sale. You are welcome to bring your own alcohol and there will also be a raffle.

All funds raised from the event will go towards the Community Woodland Project in Monks Wood, Wick, and other SWCG community projects. MW



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AM supports scores on the doors for disability access

A SYSTEM to provide information about the accessibility of businesses and whether they have CPR equipment available has received support from Welsh Government.

Suzy Davies, the Welsh Conservative AM for South Wales West, held a preliminary debate in the Welsh Assembly to consider the merits of a scheme that could see businesses scored on how accessible they are for people with disabilities.

The proposal, which could also see information about whether staff are first aid-trained and if the business has emergency lifesaving equipment, was well received by the cabinet secretary for health, Vaughan Gething, who said it "is a proposal to be welcomed."

Mrs Davies said she was inspired to hold the debate after Bridgend Coalition of Disabled People started a petition to go before the Assembly's petitions committee.

If it receives 5,000



Suzy Davies AM with members of St John Ambulance.

signatures by the end of March, it will be brought to the assembly chamber for a formal government response on what it plans to do about the proposals.

Suzy Davies AM said: "The petition has already received more than 1,700 signatures online and, in addition to this, paper copies are in many shops and locations in south Wales already so there is already clear that there is support for the idea."

"Food Hygiene Ratings being displayed has vastly improved hygiene ratings of many businesses. This scheme can do the same for the

physical accessibility of buildings and transport and disability awareness of the staff."

Mrs Davies added: "For those already doing a good job, this is the perfect way to shout about it, while for those that could improve, it is an opportunity to do that. A better experience for staff and customer leads to more customers, so it is win win."

Simon Green, chair of Bridgend Coalition of Disabled People, said: "We are very grateful to Suzy Davies for holding the debate."

"As our petition is still

open at the moment, we did not expect to see this much progress yet."

"We have had great feedback from all parties so far and we will be holding a meeting soon to discuss the plan in even more detail."

There was support for the scheme from the National Autism Society Cymru and Guide Dogs Cymru.

Mrs Davies proposed that the scheme could also see information about whether the business has lifesaving equipment, such as defibrillators, available to the public and also whether staff are trained.

Adam Fletcher, head of BHF Cymru, said: "Ensuring the public know where they can access a defibrillator or help from a CPR-trained individual is vital to saving lives."

Speaking after the debate, Mrs Davies said: "I am thrilled that Welsh Government think there is life in this idea."

"While we must, of course, question, the cost of any scheme like this. There is potential for disabled people themselves to provide a lot of the information about accessibility ratings."

Green energy 'parc' near Porthcawl adds another string to bow



A MULTI-million-pound smart battery system, one of the largest in the UK to be installed at a customer site, was opened on Monday (February 19) at Parc Stormy near Bridgend.

It marks a significant milestone in the application of smart battery technology in the UK, said a company spokesperson.

The system has the capacity to store enough energy to power thousands of Welsh homes when needed, helping to build a low carbon economy in Wales.

The size of three shipping containers, the battery system took three months to build and now provides balancing services to National Grid.

Leading energy storage developer and smart energy management company KiWi Power chose Cenin Renewables as the location for its 4MW battery energy storage system (BESS).

Cenin's 20-acre cluster of integrated clean technologies includes a low carbon cement production facility, a solar farm, an anaerobic digestion plant and a wind turbine.

"This is all about having green energy in reserve and we are delighted to be working with KiWi

Power to play our part delivering a reliable, sustainable power source while providing local economic development and helping Wales reach its low emissions targets," said Martyn Popham MD of Cenin.

Continued Popham: "Smart batteries are both green and cost-effective, reducing the need for inefficient backup power stations by allowing excess energy to be stored and used when the sun isn't shining and the wind has stopped blowing."

Dignitaries from Cenin, KiWi Power and the renewables industry at a launch event at Cenin's Parc Stormy site on Stormy Down.

"This facility is an exciting addition to KiWi Power's battery portfolio, and a key part of our strategy to develop, finance, build and monetise the highest value battery systems on customer sites across Europe," explained Yoav Zingher, CEO of KiWi Power.

"Our state-of-the-art technology enables large power users like Cenin to reap the rewards from battery energy storage, with no upfront investment or risk to them, reducing their bills and their carbon footprint."

The Cenin Group of companies was set up to invest in clean technologies and energy generation and to follow the examples of some of the leading projects in Europe.

Building on south Wales' heritage as a coal and electricity producer, Cenin encourages local economic activity by attracting investment that harnesses and integrates the principality's natural resources.

Cenin Renewables is part of Cenin Group and is a cluster of renewable technologies located at Parc Stormy in Bridgend that deliver the entire energy needs with low carbon sustainable energy to local homes at a competitive cost.

The site features solar PV, wind, anaerobic digestion as well as a low carbon cement factory supported by mineral research laboratories.

A wind turbine stands 100 metres high and as well, the Welsh School of Architecture at Cardiff University has designed and created the UK's first purpose-built, low-cost energy house, capable of exporting more energy to the national electricity grid than it uses.

The anaerobic digestion plant operating from the site is owned and operated by Agrivert and was opened by the First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones in 2016. It is the first of its kind in Wales, with the plant converting food waste and organic matter into biogas which fuels an electricity generator.

Surplus heat is fed to Cenin's low carbon cement plant for use in the minerals drying process, while organic digestate is piped to a neighbouring farm for use as an organic fossil-free fertilizer.

It produces a constant 3.2MW of electricity 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF
SIROL PEN-Y-BONT AR OGWR

I give notice that the following applications have been made. The application documents can be viewed during normal office hours at the Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB or on the planning page of the Council website. Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications or use planning grounds should write to the Council at the above address by the date specified under each category of application or submit their comments online. Comments received on applications are not acknowledged. Any representations submitted will be open to public inspection and objectors' supporters may be identified on the internet. The Development Control Committee operates public speaking arrangements. If you wish to register an interest to speak at Committee should the application not be processed under delegated powers please indicate in your response. For more information tel: 01496 626675.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (WALES) ORDER 2012
P18/195/FUL Change of use of land outside the settlement limit to residential garden - The Hollies Hall Y Ysgol Coity by Mr & Mrs G Williams
The above proposed development does not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.
P18/1102/OUT New three bedroom dwelling (Affecting Footpath 80 Gwale Valley) - Land at 49 Albany Road

For consideration by Mr D Smith
RESPOND BY 7/3/2018
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1960
LISTED BUILDING CONSENT
P17/00015 Fit security bars to windows at the rear of the building - Harmon Chapel, Nollan Street Bridgend by Mrs M Martin
P17/00015 Public access walk for customers on platform areas of the station - Bridgend Railway Station 988
Bridgend by Waco Consult
RESPOND BY: 14/2/2018

Mark Shepherd Corporate Director Communities / Cyluneddwr Cofretholathol-Cymunedau 22/2/2018

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PRITI PATEL MEETS PORTHCAWL PUPILS

From left, standing, are Suzy Davies AM, Priti Patel MP, and Cllr Carolyn Webster.

SIXTH-form pupils of Porthcawl Comprehensive School had the opportunity to grill the Rt Hon Priti Patel MP, Suzy Davies AM, and Cllr Carolyn Webster when she visited the school last week.

Pupils questioned the MP for Witham on issues ranging from the uses of technology in government to Brexit. Ms Patel was pleased to hear the passion of the questioning and the interest in politics, both devolved and national.

Among other items on a varied agenda, Ms Patel explained to the pupils taking part the importance of scrutinising legislation before it becomes voted into law.

Mrs Davies and Cllr Webster also addressed specific issues including a number of questions on the NHS and education in Wales as



these and other matters are devolved to the Welsh Assembly.

Ms Patel and Mrs Davies congratulated the sixth form on its excellent academic record, their record within the local community on fundraising and both encouraged pupils to think about building on that and playing an active part in public life.

In closing, Cllr Webster – a former pupil of Porthcawl Comprehensive School – thanked staff and pupils for all of their questions, adding: “Strong democracies require such robust debate as seen today to function well.” **AS**

‘We need to make much more use of bus services or they will disappear’

BEING a resident in the RCT area, I found it quite amazing to read in The GEM about the consultation on cuts to bus services.

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) carries a report to Cabinet 2018/19 in all its libraries (supplement), consulting on possible bus routes which could lose their funding.

I hope people will pick it up, ask for a copy or go online. Your council has had its budget cut by over £60 million since 2010, and more will be placed on all local authorities in the future.

When I travel to Bridgend I use the First

ON Saturday, February 17 the Celtic Club Maesteg were hosts of Mayor Idris Williams’ charity fundraising year.

Maesteg Male Voice Choir were the entertainers for the evening and delighted the audience with a wonderful array of music, which went down extremely well with the large audience and supporters of the Mayor’s charity.

During the first quarter, the choir entertained with six traditional Welsh hymns, which were appreciated by the audience who then went on to play a session of bingo and a musical quiz which even some members of the choir joined in.

The second quarter began with choir singing more of a musical theatre set before the interval, when the choir and guests enjoyed an excellent buffet.

Finally, the choir finished off the concert with four new pieces, which were performed for the first time by the choir and were enjoyed by the audience and the choristers themselves.

The musical director reminded the audience that on May 12, the choir’s annual concert will be at Maesteg

Town Hall with Shan Cothi performing.

A word about the choir’s musical team. Since coming together to take over the reins, both musical director Huw Morgan and accompanist Laura Deenik have really blended together and have a wonderful working partnership.

This is bringing the best out of the choir and Huw’s humour and participation with the audience goes down extremely well. **TH**

Help for local PTA from housebuilder

A BRIDGEND school has received funding from a leading housebuilder.

Coety Primary School Friends Association received £1,000 to buy outdoor equipment for the new school.

The donation is part of Persimmon Homes’ Community Champions campaign. Each month the builder donates up to £2,000 to community groups across south west Wales.

Toni Lewis, a member of Coety Primary School Friends Association, said: “This is a fantastic boost for the school. We will use the money to buy new outdoor equipment for the junior yard, including a climbing wall.

“The children will love it. It’s great to see Persimmon Homes getting involved in the communities in which they work.”

Persimmon funded the new Coety Primary School as part of the Parc Derwen development, where 1,500 homes are being built.

Sharon Robinson, sales director at Persimmon Homes West Wales, said: “We’re delighted to hand over this money.

“As a company we have enjoyed huge success over the last few years, and it’s great to be able to give something back to the communities in which we are working.

“Our Community Champions campaign is still running and we’d welcome more applications via our website, www.persimmonhomes.com/charity.”

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Range of Savings Accounts - 1 February 2018

Account Name	Minimum Account Opening Balance	Minimum Account Operating Balance	Annual Interest AER/GROSS *
Personal Premier	£1	£1	1.00%
Regular Saver	£25 - £500 per calendar month	£25 - £500 per calendar month	2.50%
90 Day Notice	£5,000	£1	1.10%
Cash ISA	£1	£1	1.10%
Cash JISA	£1	£1	2.00%
Young Saver	£1	£1	2.00%
First Adult Saver (only available to customers aged 18 to 32 years old)	£1	£1	1.25%

(Please Note the Swan Premier account no longer exists and all existing accounts have been transferred to the Personal Premier account)

These **INTEREST RATES** are variable. They may be amended in response to changing economic conditions or as required in the interests of financial expediency and the prudent management of the Society.

If you require details of the current interest rates payable on your account please contact the Society on (01792) 739430 or call in to one of the Society's branch offices across South Wales where staff will provide this information to you.

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* AER Stands for Annual Equivalent Rate and illustrates what the interest rate would be if interest was paid and added each year.

• GROSS The Gross rate is the contractual rate of interest before the deduction of income tax.

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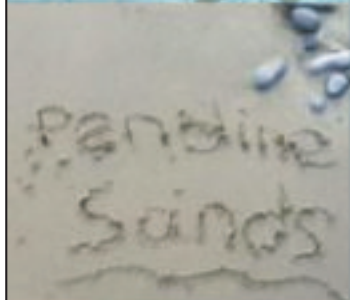
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Tractor Boys of Aberthin give cheques to charities



Billy handing a cheque over to Bethan Palfrey of Parkinson's UK.

THE Tractor Boys of Aberthin held a presentation evening at the Farmers Arms, Aberthin on January 29.

The main event of the evening was the presentation by Billy George on behalf of the Tractor Boys of Aberthin, of two cheques for an amount of £1,000 each. The beneficiaries of the cheques were Alzheimer's Research UK and Parkinson's UK.

The cheques were gladly received by both organisations, who were delighted with the amount raised.

The money was raised as the result of a tractor run organised by both John Gray and Graham Ponsford last October in memory of Billy George's wife, Kay, who died in March 2016 after battling a long illness (Lewy Body Disease, which is a combination of both Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's).

The run was well organised and strongly supported by the local community, family and friends, resulting in the fantastic amount of £2,000 being raised.

Auctions and raffles were held prior to the run at Llest Farm, Llantwit

Fardre which served as the starting and ending point of the fundraising event. This helped boost the amount of money raised significantly.

There were 34 tractors in total participating in the run, which took place around the Pontypridd area on October 8, a fine and sunny Sunday. The run took in the fantastic mountain scenery of the surrounding region and included passage through Taff Street in Pontypridd, before moving on to Eglwysilan where we marvelled at the views, before a well earned comfort stop at the Rose and Crown.

Many thanks to John Gray for organising the run, to those who provided raffle prizes and auction items and to all those who participated in the run and made donations.

A big thank you also to Billy and his family for providing excellent hospitality at Llest Farm, both before and after the event. The cider that they produce there, I can highly recommend.

The Tractor Boys of Aberthin have raised over £28,000 for good causes during the last seven years.

SRD

Vale Council is to follow Bridgend on waste collection

THE Vale Council is considering following Bridgend (BCBC) and asking householders to separate more of their household recycling – and also limit the number of black landfill bags.

At present, the Vale Council operates a 'co-mingling' system, but a change was discussed at a cabinet meeting this Monday (February 19).

BCBC changed its system last year, in April. The change-over to a more comprehensive regime sparked a storm of protest, and a number of councillors and residents are still unhappy.

The Vale Council says the proposed change is driven by the need to increase recycling levels and cut costs.

At the moment, the recyclable materials collected by the Vale Council – glass, paper, tins and plastic – are simply transported to a re-processor in the north of England. The council receives no money at all.

If the cabinet says yes, then a consultation will begin on how best to introduce the changes, with the new measures due to come into effect from September.

Cllr Geoff Cox, the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport, said: "The council must change the way in which we collect residents' waste and recycling in order to bring our service into line with changes to the law, and more importantly make it economically and environmentally sustainable."

"The changes I propose are subject to the council receiving a substantial capital grant from Welsh Government to assist with infrastructure costs."

"How we go about implementing them, however, will be decided based on the views of residents."

"As a county we have been set a challenging target by Welsh Government of recycling 70 per cent of the Vale's waste by 2025."

"We can only achieve this if more residents than ever are willing to play their role in recycling and we will soon be launching a public awareness campaign."

Due to the processing and travel costs involved the council receives no income for the material that goes to the north of England.

Separated collections will result in much lower levels of contamination and in turn a higher sale price for the material.

The council will also be able to find its own markets due to the higher value of the material and will seek to find these markets as close to the Vale as possible.

Alongside the changes to collections the council intends to build a new waste transfer station within the Vale where recyclable material can be stored before it is sold.

A Vale Council spokesman said: "The significant reduction in the costs of transporting recyclable material along with the higher sale price are predicted to result in savings to the council of around £400,000 each year."

Southerndown WI learn the benefits of counselling

THERE was a very good turn out at the February meeting of Southerndown WI with several visitors – hopefully they'll be back as full members next month!

President Lyn welcomed everyone and Chris gave members the travel details for the trip to the opera. Pam reminded everyone of the groups that take place regularly – darts, book group, craft group and walking group.

The speaker for the evening, Sheila Stephens, gave a talk on counselling. Sheila had been involved in counselling since the 1980s and she explained the training and accreditation process.

Counselling has developed gradually since the days of Sigmund Freud to the current day when Mindfulness and Cognitive Behavioural Therapies are popular concepts for coping with depression or anxiety.

It was interesting to hear how neurological research has demonstrated that counselling has a direct and positive impact on the brain.

Our feelings and emotions are located in one part

of the brain but research has shown that guided discussion of the feelings moves them to a different part of the brain where they can be considered by more rational thought.

Sheila told how people often will be counselled for grief and explained how it can be experienced for many situations in life, such as following major surgery, when friendships come to an end and sometimes if we choose to move to a different location to start a new life.

Sheila ended her talk with a quote from a speech given by Prince William during the launch of the charity, Heads Together, emphasising the importance of talking and how it can change lives. Sheila definitely gave everyone some food for thought.

The coffee morning this month is at Lyn's home on February 22 from 10.30am and the next meeting takes place on Thursday, March 8 at 7.15pm in St Brides Major Church Hall on Southerndown Road – all are welcome.

PM

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CARDIFF AIRPORT REPORTS A HALF TERM SURGE IN PASSENGERS

THE first few days of the February half term holidays are off to a flying start at Cardiff Airport with approximately 22,000 customers expected this week.

Trends in passenger travel since the start of the week showed that customers are using Wales' national airport as the departure point to reach far-flung, long haul destinations with KLM, using Amsterdam Schiphol as the connecting hub.

Popular choices include Asia, north America, the Middle East, Africa and China.

Some people have headed for European ski resorts, and a proportion of passengers have headed for the sunshine of southern Europe.

Debra Barber, CEO of Cardiff Airport, said: "We enjoy welcoming excited passengers as they fly off for a half term break or to visit friends and family."

"It's interesting to see the trends in our

passengers' travel habits and the popular routes at this time of year.

"It's been an exciting start to the year, with passenger growth and terminal developments well under way."

"Following what was a strong start to the year with nine per cent growth for January and over 1.473 million passengers having flown over the last 12 months, Wales' national airport is gearing up for a busy year ahead."

"As the country's national airport, we're very passionate about delivering a warm Welsh welcome to visitors on arrival to Wales, with international passengers flying in daily with KLM and even more expected when the Qatar Airways' service starts in May."

"Cardiff Airport is proudly flying the flag for Wales every day of the year."

Swansea Building Society launches a new account

SWANSEA Building Society has recently launched a new savings account for new and existing members in Wales following demand from its young adult customers for a product that will help them save for a significant life purchase, such as a first home.

Launched on February 1, the First Adult Saver account has been created by the Society specifically for customers aged from 18 to and including 30-year-olds.

According to the Halifax First Time Buyer Review 2017, the average age of a first time buyer in the UK is 30, which is up from 29 in 2011.

Swansea Building Society believes that limiting the age to 30 on its new First Adult Saver account will significantly help those saving for their first home.

The review also revealed that the average house price in Wales in 2016 was £133,730. The average mortgage was £116,000, with the average deposit £17,550.

The First Adult Saver account limits the maximum balance across all accounts held to £30,000, and the savings account has a competitive rate (1.25 per cent).

Withdrawals from the account are limited to three per year and are subject to seven days' notice, with no access allowed prior to this.

Alun Williams, chief executive of Swansea Building Society, said: "We are extremely pleased to have launched our new First Adult Saver account, which has been specially designed to meet the needs of 18 to 30 year olds. The new product comes following feedback from the front line branch staff regarding maturing Swansea Building Society children's accounts, as well as research showing the clear need for young adults to have assistance with saving for major life purchases or events, like a first home."

NFU county conference

DR TIM RENDER, director for Environment and Rural Affairs at Welsh Government, will be guest speaker at the Glamorgan NFU Cymru County Conference on Monday, February 26 at St Mary's Golf Club, Pencoed.

Hot beef rolls will be served from 7pm, with the meeting beginning at 7.30pm prompt. As part of his presentation, Tim will discuss Welsh Government's position on Brexit and its priorities ahead of March 2019 and beyond.

Abi Reader, Glamorgan NFU Cymru county chair said: "We are most grateful to Tim for agreeing to come and speak at the conference and also to HSBC bank for sponsoring the event."

"This is a great opportunity for members to get an insight into the work of the Welsh Government ahead of Brexit. I hope we will get a good turnout of local NFU Cymru members. Please also encourage your friends and neighbours to come along."

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The First Step to a Better Smile

The origins of the Ordnance Survey

ON February 8 Sully U3A were fortunate enough to be entertained by Chris Higley about 'Maps of Wales and Maps of War'.

The origins of the Ordnance Survey lie in the aftermath of the Jacobite rising of 1745, which was finally defeated by forces loyal to the government at the Battle of Culloden in 1746; when it was realised that the British Army did not have a good map of the British Isles.

William Roy was largely responsible for the British share of the work of the Principal Triangulation of Great Britain between 1783 and 1853, and led to the creation of the Ordnance Survey itself. In 1801 the first one-inch-to-the-mile map was published and by 1840 the one-inch survey had covered all of Wales.

After a fire in the

Tower of London in 1841, the headquarters of the Ordnance Survey was moved to Southampton, and in 1855 the Board of Ordnance was abolished and the Ordnance Survey was placed under the War Office together with the Topographical Survey and the Depot of Military Knowledge and eventually in 1870 it was transferred to the Office of Works.

During World War One, the Ordnance Survey was involved in preparing maps of France and Belgium and then during World War Two, many more maps were created, including 1:40,000 map of Antwerp, Belgium.

A number of historical Ordnance Survey maps of local areas to south Wales and Antwerp, Belgium were on show for all to view.

We look forward to our next presentation on March 8 at the Old School in Sully.

Mike Birnage

Bro Radio launches search for 'supermum'

BRO RADIO, the local radio station for the Vale of Glamorgan, has launched a search for the most deserving or unsung Mum in the Vale in partnership with The Glenbrook Inn.

The Glenbrook Inn has been a vital part of the local community since 1982, serving their famous Sunday carvery every weekend and hosting a range of events for all the family throughout the year.

Teaming up with the local family restaurant, the station is looking to give back to a Vale-based Mum who has had a tough 12 months, or who has supported or given back to their local community.

Owner of The Glenbrook Inn, Liam O'Leary said: "Working with Bro Radio is a great way for us to give back to the local people who have supported us over the years. We've already heard from so many Mums who are doing great things in the community and hope we can give them a Mother's day to remember."

If you know a deserving Vale-based Mum, then Bro Radio and The Glenbrook Inn would like to hear from you.

Submit their details via broradio.fm for your chance to win a three course Sunday lunch on Mothering Sunday for up to four people including a drink.

All nominees must be based in the Vale and entry closes at 5pm on Friday, March 2.

Bridge club results

THE results for the Vale of Glamorgan bridge club for February 19 are as follow.

First, Mia Deschepper and Mike Pownall 61.25 per cent. Second, Mary Lougher and Joan Bird 57.92 per cent. Third, Kevin Maddox and Mike Best 57.50 per cent.

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VALE AM PRAISES WORK OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CHARITY

RIGHT:
Jane Hutt AM with
Helen Jones and
Sarah Duddridge at
Atal y Fro.

FOLLOWING the 40th anniversary of Welsh Women's Aid, former co-ordinator Jane Hutt AM visited Atal y Fro in Barry to congratulate the pioneering charity in their work to tackle violence against women in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Jane Hutt said: "Atal y Fro provides pioneering domestic abuse services in the Vale but their aim has also been 'to prevent' violence against women. "The Welsh Government has funded



a Wales-wide project led by Atal y Fro to support families to help prevent domestic abuse at times of stress and vulnerability.

"I was glad to visit and welcome new director Helen Jones to her post at Atal y Fro. "As we approach International Women's

Day on March 8, I hope a spotlight will shine on the work we need to do to prevent violence against women in Wales and the world."

GLORIOUS BIGSWEIR FOR THE PENARTH RAMBLERS

JOY from Penarth and District Ramblers played host to a group of 11 walkers at Bigsweir in glorious weather conditions.

They made their way uphill along the ancient Offa's Dyke Path which dates to 780AD and on leaving the wood, there were vast amounts of damage visible in the churned up fields caused by wild boar.

After a morning break in the shelter of trees to avoid the cool breeze, a further climb through Highbury Wood led to a descent past snowdrops and a glorious view of the Penallt Viaduct, which carried the Wye Valley Railway line from England into Wales in the

valley below.

A steep, slippery descent led them through Lower Redbrook for the next climb up through muddy wet tracks in Forge Wood and a smattering of snowflakes on the journey up to Newland.

All Saints Church, also known as The Cathedral of the Forest, provided shelter for the lunch break, with a chance to share its history dating back to 1200. Its beautiful treasures included a 1ft-high brass engraving known as the 'Miner's Brass,' showing a Forest of Dean miner with a candle in his mouth, a pickaxe in hand and a hod on his back.

Passing the almshouses adjacent to the church, following a muddy, sunken track

uphill to Rookery Lane, there were a few more snow flurries.

It led to open views of the Herefordshire countryside and hills in the distance, before a series of fields and sunken lanes led them back into woodland for the descent back to the start.

In contrast, William was not so lucky for his mid-week local walk from Porthkerry Country Park on a wet and cold morning.

Four companions turned up and they set off via the Wales Coast Path, uphill through the old Iron Age Bulwarks hillfort to Porthkerry Caravan Park.

Continuing their journey along the cliff-top, there was a pause at the southernmost tip of

mainland Wales, before heading up through Rhooose village to circumnavigate the perimeter of Cardiff Airport in order to seek out shelter under a road bridge from the rain for morning break.

Heading downhill to cross the River Kenson stone bridge, the Nant Llancarfan Valley was flooded, so a detour by road eventually brought them to Pancross Farm and down into Llancarfan.

Seeking shelter at St Cadoc's Church, the group saw its glorious array of medieval wall paintings, covered by centuries of lime washing following the break with the Roman Catholic Church by King Henry VIII, after which all traces of the Catholic religion were banned.

Heading along the road to Pen-Onn and descending the rickety bridge over the River Waycock, sodden paths through the wood led up to soggy fields and into Penmark.

The walkers made their way by road, track and field to Blackton Farm and over the A4226 to follow the Whitelands Brook downhill, where a last ascent over West Ridge led them back into Porthkerry Park.

On February 24, meet at 9am at Cogan for a seven-mile moderate walk at Moel Penderyn; contact Clive on 029 2065 4156.

To follow the group, log onto www.penarthramblers.worpress.com or Facebook. Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

**JOY
STRANGWARD**

CAVC students win medals in IT finals

STUDENTS from Cardiff and Vale College have won a gold, three silver and three bronze medals in the Skills Competition Wales IT finals.

The learners were competing against students from across Wales in the contest which feeds into the UK Skills Show and WorldSkills contests.

In the Coding Skills finals, students had to focus on developing software, debugging, testing codes and creating new applications.

They were also required to program a Lego Mindstorms robot. Jake Steen (18) from Barry won silver, while Ellis Brown (18) from Cowbridge, took the bronze.

Matthew Dean (18) from Cardiff won silver in Network Security and Kyle Woodward (18) from Cardiff won bronze. The contest involved securing

network devices and restricting access of users by employing various policies, testing competitors' configuration and application skills.

Tomek Pawelek (21) from Cardiff won gold and Morgan Whitehead (17) also from Cardiff, won silver in the IT Support Technician competition, where their ability to configure IT hardware and software to meet customer requirements was tested.

Cardiff and Vale College deputy principal Sharon James said: "Congratulations and a massive well done to our IT learners for doing so well in the finals. Seven medals is quite an achievement and shows how their hard work and determination has paid off."

"Staff from the college's IT department have worked tirelessly to train these competitors, enabling them to compete to such a high standard, so I thank them for their effort and commitment. This impressive haul of medals is a testament to that."



Students from Cardiff and Vale College's IT department with their awards.



Bee colonies are getting ready for warmer weather

**News from the Fonmon Apiary
by Harold Williams**

SIGNS of spring are everywhere, snowdrops and catkins.

Bulbs are also beginning to poke up through the soil.

However! Weather conditions are such of late that the bees are not able to venture out just yet to collect the pollen on offer from these early providers.

Nonetheless, the days are lengthening and the bees are aware of this. The queens are stepping up their egg-laying activity to keep the colony viable.

The bees that have come through the winter are now some five months old (that is old for a worker bee) and they will progressively die off.

It is only worker bees (females) and the queen that inhabit the hive for the winter period, no males are required.

So spring is just around the corner, the eggs laid by the queen will become new bees and they will take at least three weeks to become fully functioning foragers.

It is the workers (the ladies) who do all the organising and foraging in a honeybee colony so female eggs, not male eggs, are given priority. Come April and May the male bee (drone) will begin to show.

To meet the demands of the winter period the

workers have spent many hours collecting pollen and nectar (it is nectar that is collected, not honey: the bees change nectar into honey).

All this work is not only to provide for the colony's daily needs, but to put by the food that will be required by the winter bees.

Shorter days will kick in, accompanied by lower temperatures and a reduction in flowers. Honeybees do not hibernate! But winter conditions can be such that external activity is not an option, hence there is a requirement for in-house food supplies.

The temperature of the hive is regulated by the bees at all times of the year. Provided that adequate stores are available there is a good chance that the colony will come through, whatever winter can throw at them.

Pollinators of all kinds now face extinction thanks to the activities of homo sapiens (our good selves). Perhaps we should pay attention to the following quote:

"The wildlife of the world is not ours to dispose of as we please. We do but have it in trust for those who are to follow."

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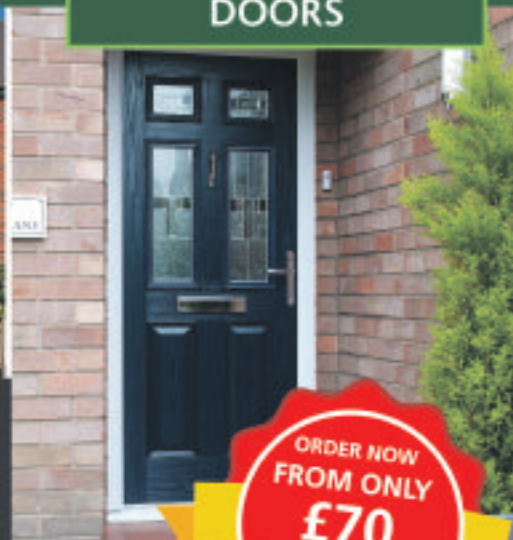
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RESERVISTS AND CADETS COMMENDED FOR 'VERY BEST DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT'

THE Queen's representative for South Glamorgan believes Reservists and Cadets have 'the very best dedication and commitment' and has honoured their work in local communities.

Lord Lieutenant Mrs Morfudd Meredith was speaking at her annual awards ceremony recently at which she singled out 11 members of the Armed Forces community for their outstanding achievements over the last year.

She said: "Tonight presents the opportunity to recognise the excellent work of the Reserve Forces and Cadets in South Glamorgan. The Reserve Forces have made a huge contribution worldwide over the past year, they are a part of our community and we are immensely proud of them."

"We are all fiercely proud of your achievements and you deserve the greatest credit for your accomplishments."

"The cadets are inspirational organisations. The programme of military themed training, youth work, civilian qualifications and community work assists young people to develop,

progress and prepare for their future careers and adulthood. These young people are our future and their cadet experiences help them realise their full potential. They are role models for other young people."

Staff Sergeant Lee Hutchinson from 580 (Glamorgan) Transport Squadron Royal Logistic Corps has ensured the fitness of more than 20 children in his local area.

He volunteers as a coach at Bridgend Amateur Boxing Club and his dedication was recognised with the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate of Meritorious Service.

The same award was also presented to Lieutenant Jennifer Green from Dyfed and Glamorgan Army Cadet Force (ACF), who started with no previous military experience to thrive at Barry Detachment, where she has raised more than £13,000 for charity and led the development of young people.

Dyfed and Glamorgan ACF's Sergeant Major Instructor Stephen Thorne and No 1 Welsh Wing RAF Air Cadets' Flight Sergeant Lisa Shires from Barry also received the Lord-Lieutenant's Certificate of Meritorious Service for their effort and expertise invested in future generations.

There were also three

Lord-Lieutenant's Cadets appointed to the prestigious role for 2018.

They include 17-year-old pair Cadet Regimental Sergeant Major Bradley Cartwright from Cardiff and Cadet Sergeant Rhys Horton from Barry, as well as 16-year-old Able Cadet Matthew Staite from Penarth Sea Cadet Corps.

The trio have excelled in areas ranging from engineering to Duke of Edinburgh's Awards and fundraising for charity.

Their achievements have stood them in good stead to join the Lord Lieutenant at official engagements, such as Royal visits and Remembrance services as the country marks the centenary of the First World War's end.

Almost 100 people attended the event at Ty Walter Cleall in Cardiff, which is a special occasion in the calendar of the organisers, the Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association (RFCA) for Wales.

Colonel Nick Beard, chief executive of RFCA for Wales, said: "There are more than 2,200 Reservists in Wales, who are vital and valued members of the Defence family. This helps them gain transferable skills to boost their civilian lives."

"The strength of the Armed Forces community

is further strengthened by the 4,400 Cadets in Wales and the 1,200 volunteers."

Dyfed and Glamorgan ACF's Cadet Sergeant Major William Peach, No 1 Welsh Wing RAF Air Cadets' Flight Sergeant Natasia Gill from Barry and No 3 Welsh Wing RAF Air Cadets' Flight Sergeant Benjamin Hibbs were presented with a certificate for serving as Lord Lieutenant's Cadets in 2017.

To learn more about opportunities available, visit www.Wales-RFCA.org or contact @RFCAforWales on Twitter.



HM Lord-Lieutenant of South Glamorgan Mrs Morfudd Meredith with some of the award winners.



ABOVE:
Staff Sergeant Lee Hutchinson and HM Lord-Lieutenant of South Glamorgan Mrs Morfudd Meredith.

Bridgend Youth crash out of Cup

**Crymych Youth 18
Bridgend Athletic 0**

(Welsh Youth Cup quarter final)

TWO undefeated sides, Crymych Youth and Bridgend Athletic Youth fought out a determined contest in the quarter final of the Welsh Youth Cup.

Unfortunately for the Athletic, without their injured Osprey academy players, captain and flanker Joe Grabham, centres Caine Woolerton and Dan O'Sullivan and forward Rhys Durlucia, the Pembrokehire side had too much fire power.

They prevailed by taking their two-try scoring opportunities through wing Dafydd Griffiths and full back Rhodri George in an 18-0 victory.

The Athletic threw everything they had at Crymych in the first half but were unable to break down a well drilled and organised team.

The home side dominated the second half and deserved their passage to the semi-finals.

The Athletic will now look to emulate last year's Athletic Youth team and win the Ospreys A league, which will pit them against the other regional league winners where they could win the Welsh League Cup for a second consecutive season.

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Join Rhod on a trek to Nepal for Velindre



Rhod Gilbert in Peru – in February next year he plans a trek in Nepal.

FOLLOWING a very successful trek through Peru to the lost Inca city of Machu Picchu last September, comedian Rhod Gilbert will once again be pulling on his trekking boots as he prepares for his next challenge, a five day hike through the Helambu region of Nepal – and you could join him!

Taking place in February 2019, the stunning ancient kingdom of Nepal is home to some of the world's highest mountains.

The trek will once again raise funds for Wales' premier cancer centre, Velindre where Rhod is a patron.

He said: "Following hugely successful treks up Mount Kilimanjaro, through Patagonia and to Machu Picchu in Peru, I am now preparing for my next challenge: a five day hike through the Helambu region of Nepal.

"So in a year's time on February 9, I'll once again be leading a trek in aid of Velindre Cancer Centre – and you can join me.

"Collectively, we have managed to raise over a million pounds so far and we've had an absolute ball along the way. A hard ball, but a ball is a ball, that's what I always say. If I can do it, anyone can!"

For further information on this epic challenge go to Velindre Fundraising website at: www.velindrefundraising.com/events/nepal-trek-09-feb-2019.

If you wish to join Rhod and register for this event email info@velindrefundraising.com. Minimum sponsorship for this trip is £4,000, and a non-refundable booking deposit of £200 will secure your place.

The charm of Nepal is that it is largely without roads, and access is limited to ancient trails linking isolated villages where life and customs have changed little over centuries. Only on foot can you discover the true nature of the country.

The trek through the foothills of Helambu is stunningly picturesque with the peaks of the Jugal and Langtang Himals offering a very impressive backdrop to what is a charmingly unspoilt and untrekked area.

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He will need to live with another compatible dog already in the home to help him settle into a new environment, is very playful and loves his toys.

Rupert can live with children of 14 years and over who are used to dogs. New owners will need to be around during the day to help with his house training and he does enjoy both human and dog company.

He has a 'very big personality'.

If you would like to know more about Rupert, contact Dogs Trust Bridgend on 01656 725219 or call into the centre at Court Colman CF31 4NG. You can also visit the website at www.dogstrust.org.uk.



Rupert is said to have a 'very big personality'.

DL

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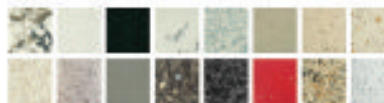


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Consultation aims to find a parliament that works for Wales – plan for more AMs

PEOPLE across Wales are being encouraged to respond to new proposals to 'reshape Welsh democracy' published by the Assembly Commission recently.

The consultation has been drawn up in anticipation of new powers given to the Assembly in the Wales Act 2017. The Act gives the Assembly the power to make decisions in relation to the institution's size and how members are elected.

Last week, the Assembly voted in favour of the commission's decision to consult on the recommendations of the Expert Panel's report on Assembly Electoral Reform, 'A Parliament that Works for Wales'.

Following a detailed analysis of evidence, the panel recommended that the Assembly needs between 20 and 30 additional members elected through a more proportional electoral system with diversity at its heart. It also recommended lowering the minimum voting age for National Assembly elections to include 16 and 17-year-olds.

The consultation on the recommendations will run from February 12 for an eight-week period ending on April 6.

In addition to the recommendations made by the Expert Panel on Assembly Electoral Reform, the consultation also includes other potential changes to who can vote in Assembly elections and who can be an Assembly Member, as well as changes to the law relating to electoral administration and the Assembly's internal arrangements.

The commission has already consulted on changing the Assembly's name, and as a result of that consultation the name will be changed to Welsh Parliament.

The Llywydd, Elin Jones AM said: "The Wales Act 2017 marks the start of a new phase of devolution in Wales, giving us the opportunity to make profound changes to our legislature. We now have the opportunity to forge the national parliament that the people of Wales deserve to champion their interests.

"This consultation is the beginning of a conversation with the people and communities of Wales about the institution that they want their Welsh Parliament to be. I look forward to hearing their views."

There are a number of ways that people can let the Assembly Commission know what they think about the potential reforms:

Visit the consultation website at www.assembly.wales/futuresenedd, where they will find the full consultation document and an easy read version of the consultation document. They can either email your completed consultation form to AssemblyCommission.Consultations@assembly.wales, or post it to Freepost, National Assembly for Wales.

Visit the consultation microsite at www.futuresenedd.wales, and fill in an online survey. People can choose whether to answer questions on all of the proposals, or just the ones which interest them most.

Further information about the consultation and the regional events, including how to take part, will be available on the consultation website over the coming weeks.

CREU senedd i Gymru
MAE pobl ledled Cymru yn cael eu hannog i ymateb i gynigion newydd i ail-lunio democratieth Gymreig a gyhoeddiir gan Gomisiwn y Cynulliad heddiw.

Lluniwyd yr ymgynghoriad wrth ragweld pwerau newydd a roddwyd i'r Cynulliad yn Neddf Cymru 2017. Mae'r Ddeddf yn rhoi'r pŵer i'r Cynulliad wneud penderfyniadau mewn perthynas â maint y sefydliad a sut mae Aelodau'n cael eu hethol.

Yr wythnos diwethaf, pleidleisiodd y Cynulliad o blaid penderfyniad y Comisiwn i ymgynghori ar argymhellion adroddiad y Panel Arbenigol ar Ddiwygio Etholiadol y Cynulliad, 'Senedd sy'n Gweithio i Gymru'.

Yn dilyn dadansoddiad manwl o'r dystiolaeth, argymhellodd y Panel fod angen rhwng 20 a 30 o Aelodau ychwanegol ar y Cynulliad, wedi'u hethol trwy system etholiadol fwy cyfrannol gydag amrywiaeth wrth ei gwraidd. Mae'r panel hefyd yn argymhell y dydd gostwng yr oedran pleidleisio isaf ar gyfer etholiadau'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol i gynnwys pobl ifanc un ar bymtheg a dwy ar bymtheg oed.

Bydd yr ymgynghoriad ar yr argymhellion yn rhedeg o Chwefror 12 am gyfnod o wyth wythnos, gan ddod i ben ar Ebrill 6.

Yn ogystal ag argymhellion y Panel Arbenigol ar Ddiwygio Etholiadol y Cynulliad, mae'r ymgynghoriad yn cynnwys diwygiadau posibl eraill o ran pwy all bleidleisio yn etholiadau'r Cynulliad, pwy sy'n cael bod yn Aelod o'r Cynulliad, a newidiadau i'r gyfraith yn ymwneud â gweinyddiaeth etholiadol a threfniadau mewnol y Cynulliad.

Mae'r Comisiwn eisoes wedi ymgynghori ar newid enw'r Cynulliad, ac o ganlyniad i'r ymgynghoriad hwnnw bydd yr enw'n newid i Senedd Cymru.

Meddai'r Llywydd, Elin Jones AC: "Mae Deddf Cymru 2017 yn nodi dechrau cyfnod newydd o ddatganioli yng Nghymru, gan roi cyfle inni wneud newidiadau pellgyrhaeddol i'n deddfwria. Mae gennym gyfle nawr i greu'r senedd genedlaethol y mae pobl Cymru'n haeddu ei chael i fod yn llais drostynt.

"Dyma ddechrau sgwrs gyda phobl a chymunedau Cymru am y math o sefydliad y maen nhw am i'w Senedd Cymru fod. Edrychaf ymlaen at glywed eu barn."

Mae yna nifer o ffyrdd y gall pobl roi eu barn i Gomisiwn y Cynulliad am y diwygiadau posib:

Mynd i wefan yr ymgynghoriad
www.cynulliad.cymru/seneddydyfodol lle ceir y ddogfen ymgynghori lawn a fersiwn hawdd ei darllen o'r ddogfen ymgynghori.

Mynd i ficrowefan yr ymgynghoriad
www.seneddydyfodol.cymru a llenwi arolwg ar-lein. Gallant ddewis ateb y cwestiynau am bob cynnig, ynteu dim ond y rhai sydd o'r diddordeb mwyaf iddynt.

Ar ôl llenwi'r ffurflen ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad, gallant eu hanfon at Comisiwn y Cynulliad. Ymgynghori@cynulliad.cymru neu AssemblyCommission.Consultations@assembly.wales, neu gallwch ei phostio atom yn Rhadbost (Freepost), Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru.

Solar, so good at Barry Comprehensive School



Year-7 pupils with their solar systems.

BARRY Comprehensive School's year-7 pupils were asked to produce a piece of homework depicting the Solar System, a topic they had been studying as part of the science curriculum.

The young scientists were asked to produce their

own 'interpretations' of the Solar System from what they have learnt so far.

More than 40 pieces of work were produced and the department was inundated with various versions of the Solar System. Diagrams and models in one, two and three dimensions, and even a pixellated version made from Lego, were brought in. **AC**

Marie Curie Hospice needs volunteers

THE Marie Curie Cardiff and Vale Hospice at Holme Towers, Penarth, is appealing for volunteers to give two hours of their time to hand out the charity's iconic daffodil pins in the local community, in return for donations.

The charity is hoping to get more people than ever wearing the daffodil pin during its annual fundraiser – the Great Daffodil Appeal.

The charity's local fundraising group is hosting collections in Cowbridge from Saturday, February 24 until Saturday, March 3.

The money raised will help Marie Curie be there for more people living with a terminal illness, providing them and their loved ones with vital nursing care and support.

Marie Curie community fundraiser for Cardiff and the Vale, Hannah Leckie, said: "Volunteering to collect donations in return for daffodil pins is a fun and easy way to get involved in the local community.

"You can collect with a friend or loved ones and know that you are helping Marie Curie be there when we are needed most."

Those wishing to volunteer an hour of their time can contact local organiser Mrs Roberts on 01446 771159.

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'Women's Voices' at U3A

ON the anniversary of the Representation of People Act in 1918, when women over 30 and 'of property' achieved the right to vote, David Maddox gave a talk to Barry U3A on 'Women's Voices in the Valleys from 1900 to 1914'.

His talk did not centre on the fight for the right to vote, as women in the Valleys at that time usually had much more pressing issues on their minds.

Their menfolk mostly worked down the mines and it was the woman's job to ensure that they had a good meal and a bath to come home to.

In reality, a woman's role was to make a home for others, where families of 12 were not uncommon.

This was demanding and statistics showed the death rates for women at that time were much higher than for men. The constant childbearing and continuous housework took their toll.

Around 20 per cent of women worked outside the home, sometimes even at the pits themselves. Working as a shop assistant was very popular even though the pay was usually less, and a few women had jobs as 'white blouse girls', meaning they were clerical workers.

The major employment for women at that time was in domestic service. Most girls were given 'training' in such domestic activities as washing, ironing and cooking in preparation for leaving home at around the age of 14. Many took jobs away from the Valleys or outside Wales.

Life was not all drudgery, however, and we should not think that women did not have some fun. While middle class women joined campaigns for the Suffragists, the vast majority of women looked for more entertaining activities.

Some became involved in the Temperance or Religious Revival movements, because these offered the chance to belong to a choir and put on concerts.

Women also enjoyed going to theatres, of which there were many. There was even roller skating and Sunday outings to Barry or Porthcawl.

If you are no longer in full time employment or raising a family, then you are in your third age and new members are very welcome.

The next meeting takes place on Monday, March 5 at 2pm in Bethel Baptist Church Hall, Harbour Road on the roundabout in Park Crescent. Contact Christine on 01446 701537.



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"You can also visit us online to view products. Keep up with our latest installations on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter."

"Our new showroom on Ty Verlon Industrial Estate (behind McDonald's) is due to open at the end of March 2018."

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The Potted Gardener with Sara Milne Ever thought of growing veggies in garden pots?



ABOVE: Most people think you need an allotment or a space in your garden to grow vegetables, but that isn't necessarily the case.

If you have ever thought about growing vegetables in pots, now is the time to give it a go!

There is a huge variety of vegetables that can be grown in containers or smaller spaces to make 'growing your own' accessible to everyone. Some of the best veg to grow are beetroot, broad beans, carrots, dwarf French beans, herbs, peas, potatoes, radishes, rocket, runner beans, chillies and peppers, salad leaves, salad onions, salad turnips and tomatoes.

It's just a question of right veg, right sized pot.

Choose large deep pots to grow root vegetables such as potatoes and carrots, and shallower ones for beetroot and onions.

Vigorous growing veg such as courgettes, tomatoes and beans need large pots filled with good compost to accommodate their roots. Lettuce and herbs can be grown in window boxes.

Containers can dry out very quickly so need frequent watering. Beware of over-watering as well.

The way to test if you've got it right is to put a finger in the compost – if it's slightly moist just below the surface it's spot on.

Use compost specially designed for containers as it will hold onto water better and have the extra nutrients added to get your plants off to a good start.

Things to look out for when choosing the right one are soil and loam-based composts, extra nutrients, plant food and water-retaining granules. Most multi-purpose composts are fine, or a soil-based compost such as John Innes No3.

For the greatest choice of plants, grow from seed, but if you don't mind too much about the variety, buy ready grown plants or plug plants from garden centres or mail-order suppliers. If growing from seed, check the instructions on the packet.

Seed sowing time may vary depending on the crop but the main growing season for vegetables is from early spring to autumn.

Don't forget to feed your crops on a regular basis. Pot grown veg run out of nutrients due to the limited amount of soil they have to grow in, so a feed of general-purpose liquid fertiliser should be applied every couple of weeks.

Finally, make sure you position your pots so they are in the best location for their growing needs. Most vegetable plants like lots of sun, so it's important to site your containers where they will receive a good few hours of direct light a day. South or west facing locations are the best.

Climbers such as beans or peas can't cope with windy or exposed spaces, so a sheltered spot suits them best against walls or fences.

If pots and containers are just part of your outside space then here are some gardening tips for this month from the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society)...

Sow vegetable seeds and plant potatoes; protect new spring shoots from slugs; plant summer-flowering bulbs; feed containers with fresh compost; mow the lawn on dry days (if needed).

Cut back winter shrubs and keep your eyes peeled for weeds starting to come through; start conserving water, re-pot houseplants and prune bush and climbing roses.

Sara the gardener

PACT MEETINGS

WHY not come along to Gibbonsdown 'Cuppa with a Copper' which is held every Monday morning at the Aberaeron HUB, Aberaeron Close between 10am and 12 noon?

Dyfan PACT will be held on Sunday, February 25 at Buttrills Community Centre, North Walk, Barry, at 7pm.

Meet your local officer at Penarth Police Station on Thursday, February 22 between 4.30pm and 5.30pm.

A police surgery will be held at Llantwit Major Primary School between 10.30am and 11.30am on Thursday, March 1.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting, contact 101 for non emergencies or log onto: www.south-wales.police.uk where you will find contact details for your local PCSO and you can contact them directly for non emergency matters.

Out & About with The GEM

Del Toro's *The Shape of Water* is a gloriously Gothic and gorgeous fairytale...

GUILLERMO Del Toro's is one of cinema's more idiosyncratic voices – after all, he's able to dip his toe both in the big-budget world with films like *Pacific Rim* and *Hellboy*, while also making films in his native language that transcend language in the likes of *Pan's Labyrinth* and *The Devil's Backbone*.

His latest film would be something of a hard sell without knowing he was behind it. In *The Shape of Water*, we meet Elisa (Sally Hawkins), a mute woman who works as a cleaner at a government facility.

When they take possession of an individual who is part-man, part-sea creature, overseen by government agent Strickland (Michael Shannon) and Dr Hoffstetter (Michael Stuhlbarg), Elisa begins to form a relationship with the creature.

As their relationship develops and she sees the cruelty to which he is exposed she, along with her neighbour Giles (Richard Jenkins) and co-worker Zelda (Octavia Spencer) vow to break the creature out, a task that is easier said than done...

The set up of *The Shape of Water* is one that feels a little familiar – there are strains of *E.T.* in the plot, to name but one – but don't let that fool you into thinking that this is a film that treads gently through familiarity.

Instead, Guillermo Del Toro crafts a gloriously Gothic and visually gorgeous fairytale of a film, a tale that may kick off in genre mode but soon gives way to universal truths.

To use a water analogy, there is far more going on beneath the surface of this film – every character feels rounded and purposeful, elemental to the story, while the setting of the film (in the Cold War paranoia of the 1960s) lends it that sense of fear of the unknown, with the Americans determined not to let the creature fall into the hands of the Russians.

Yet amidst this dark and sombre mood, Del

Toro finds plenty of beauty amidst the relationships of the characters and their lives.

There are some beautifully-realised sequences in this (a bathroom flooding that makes you care not a jot for the water damage that will certainly ensue, a song-and-dance sequence captured with elan), the director focusing on the decaying beauty that pervades the film, inserting the occasional burst of horror while the relationships themselves are sketched with aplomb.

There's the budding romance between Elisa and the creature, played so delicately and gently with simple grace notes conveying far more than any dialogue could.

There is Elisa's relationship with her neighbour Giles (a sensational Richard Jenkins) who is a social and professional pariah – the latter to do with drinking at work, the former, far more tragically, the effect of his sexuality (a scene in a diner is heartbreaking).

Del Toro and co-writer Vanessa Taylor invest these characters with plenty of depth and dimension.

The performances are astounding across the board. Sally Hawkins' ability to do so much with just facial and hand expressions is breathtaking, her turn an exceptionally-realised one that sees the power behind her eyes, her soul speaking out where her voice cannot.

Doug Jones' performance as the creature is equally impressive; shorn of CGI accoutrements, this is a throwback and proof that you can do so much more, and so realistically, by eschewing the computer for a 'man-in-a-suit', conveying mood and emotion with as much power as Hawkins.

Richard Jenkins is incredible as Elisa's neighbour, heartbreaking and funny, while Octavia Spencer may be written a little less than the others but she still shows her class in a winning turn.

Michael Shannon's cruel performance as the government agent committed to cutting open the creature is a despicable one leavened a tad by Del Toro's



by
GARETH JAMIESON
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depictions of him at home, a man determined to better his status in life by standing on those he feels are beneath him.

It's a film that will no doubt bear repeat viewings given how subtly written and delivered it is, transcending what could have been something gauche and genre-heavy into something captivating and beautiful. This is a film that showcases just how good a director Guillermo Del Toro is, and makes *The Shape of Water* an absolutely transcendent experience.

VERDICT – A magnificent, magically dark story with an engaging and believable relationship at the core, *The Shape of Water* is a glorious effort from Guillermo Del Toro.

Featuring some absolutely breath-taking performances from the likes of Sally Hawkins et al, this is a film that will immerse and enchant.

Essential viewing.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Pan's Labyrinth* (2006), *E.T.* (1982)

Barry and Penarth Railway Society

THE next lecture at the Barry and Penarth Railway Society will take place today Thursday, February 22 at the Penarth Conservative Club, Stanwell Road (CF64 2EZ) starting at 7.30pm.

David Franklyn will present 'The Super Chief: Chicago to Los Angeles, 2,000 miles all the way'.

Come and join us for an evening with fellow rail enthusiasts. Free entrance, bar open to visitors.

Surgery notice ON Friday, February 23 between 4pm – 5pm AM Jane Hutt will hold an advice surgery at Llantwit Major Heritage Centre, Town Hall (CF62 1SD).

Rhoseo Bingo Rhoseo Community Hall will host a fundraising Bingo afternoon next Saturday, February 24.

Doors open at 1.45pm for a 2.30pm start at the hall in Stewart Road. There will be light refreshments and a large raffle at the half time break. Come and join us for a fun afternoon.

Ward councillors' surgery THE Labour

councillors for Buttrills, Cadoc, Castelland and Court wards: Susan Lloyd-Selby, Owen Griffiths, Anne Moore, Neil Moore, Pamela Drake, Bronwen Brooks and Sandra Perkes will be holding their regular monthly advice surgery on Saturday, February 24 in the Small Community Room, Barry Library, King Square from 10am until 11am; no appointment is necessary.

Tax advice DO you worry about tax affairs and know if you are paying the correct amount? Are you nervous about approaching Inland Revenue?

Age Connects Cardiff and Vale are holding a free tax advice surgery at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on Monday, February 27 from 9.30am to 11.30am. No appointment is needed; just come along. Call 01446 732385; home visits can be arranged if required.

Age Connects Cardiff and Vale are holding a

free tax advice surgery at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on Monday, February 27 from 9.30am to 11.30am. No appointment is needed; just come along. Call 01446 732385; home visits can be arranged if required.

Equity release advice DO you own your own home and would like equity release advice and information with no obligation?

Age Connects Cardiff and Vale are holding a drop in information session Tuesday, February 28 from 10am to 12 noon at the Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry. No appointment is needed, just come along. Call 01446 732385 for further information.

Horticultural society THE next meeting of the Llantwit Major Horticultural Society will be held at Llantwit Hall on Wednesday, February 28 at 7.30pm.

Studies show that music has quite an effect on growing plants and this month members are invited to a musical evening with Half Tidy, which will give a much-needed boost before starting the hard work needed in gardens and allotments after the winter.

Come along and enjoy a relaxing and pleasant evening – new members and guests always welcome.

Things getting on top of you?

IF you need some help with coping with what life's throwing at you – perhaps you're feeling down, stressed, have anxiety or concerns about your (or someone in your family's) general well-being – why not call into KPC in Pyle?

KPC is next to Pyle Primary School and is on a Wednesday morning between 10am–11.30am to have a chat and a free cuppa with Feliz from MHM Bridgend to see what support may be on offer.

You can also find out more about the Finding Connections project running at KPC Youth, Contact Alison on 01656 749219 or email kpcyouth@hotmail.com.

Trip to Disneyland VISIT Disneyland Paris and raise some money for life-limited children in Wales at the same time!

Ty Hafan invites you to join them for the magical trip of a lifetime at their first ever Disneyland® Paris Run Weekend this September.

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Woman becomes boss of the Royal Mint

THE Royal Mint today appointed Anne Jessopp as its new chief executive and Deputy Master of the Mint.

She will lead work to provide Britain with its cutting-edge secure currency and will also develop the commemorative coin and bullion arm of the business.

On a visit to the Royal Mint, the Exchequer Secretary officially confirmed Anne Jessopp's appointment – the first female to take up the role in the Royal Mint's 1,100 year history.

Speaking of her new appointment, the Deputy Master of the Mint, Anne Jessopp said: "I am delighted to be appointed to lead this unique and important British organisation.

"The Royal Mint has an impressive history of over 1,100 years and its longevity is due to its ability to adapt as society changes.

"This was never truer than today, as we reinterpret the Royal Mint for the 21st century, building on the values that have been at the heart of the organisation throughout our history – authenticity, security, precious metals, craftsmanship and design.

"I have had the privilege of working for the Royal Mint for almost 10 years and it is testament to the great colleagues and opportunities I have had, that I have been able to develop the skills that enable me to take on this role."

The Exchequer to the Secretary to the Treasury, Robert Jenrick, welcomed the appointment and said: "Anne Jessopp brings a wealth of expertise to this role. With her decade of experience at the Royal Mint, I am confident she will ensure the UK continues to have the most secure currency in the world, and our coins are loved and collected the world over.

"It may have taken over 1,000 years, but the Mint is now finally led by a woman, and I am certain Anne will do a great job."

What does the Deputy Master of the Mint do?

As chief executive of the Royal Mint, Anne will be tasked with running the Great British institution which produces up to 90 million coins every week. At the top of her in-tray will be overseeing the introduction of the new 50 pence coin, announced last week, to mark the centenary celebrations of women's suffrage.

Her official position as Deputy Master of the Mint is one that is steeped in history. Her first ceremonial role will be to lead the annual Trial of the Pyx.

First held in 1282, the Trial of the Pyx tests the integrity of the nation's coins, ensuring that they are

the proper weight and size, and contain the right amount of precious metals.

Every February, coins of each denomination struck by the Royal Mint are selected at random and locked away in the Pyx chests.

In a ceremony, which has not changed since before Henry VIII's reign, the Deputy Master of the Mint brings these chests to London's Goldsmiths' Hall, where the coins are checked by an independent jury.

The jury consists of leaders from the financial world and six assayers from the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths who, wearing traditional red robes, put the coins to the test.

After two months of rigorous testing, the trial reconvenes and the Queen's Remembrancer asks the jury for its verdict.

In May, this verdict will be given in the presence of the Deputy Master of The Royal Mint and the Chancellor of the Exchequer (or a representative).

Remarkably, the history books reveal that if the coins fail the test, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who is the ceremonial Master of the Mint, risks losing a hand as punishment.

It should be made clear that in the trial's long history, 94 Minters have had their right hands cut off by order of the King.

However, this has not happened for hundreds of years.

Art exhibition is a family affair

THE current exhibition in Old Hall, Cowbridge is by a husband and wife team from Penarth, both of whom are members of VOGA, the society for professional artists and craftspeople in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Geraldus John is a writer, poet and freelance artist originally from west Wales who now works predominantly in oils and mixed media and whose works have close links with music and industry.

Shirley Anne Owen uses mixed media on paper and canvas to create landscapes and drawings and is a member of the Welsh Group of artists; she has many works in private collections in the UK and abroad.

The exhibition runs until March 1.

'We must tackle the stigma surrounding mental health issues'



ABOVE: Andrew RT Davies joins Andrew Templeton and his team to support the #IAMWHOLE campaign.

MORE support must be provided for people affected by mental health issues in Wales, South Wales Central AM Andrew RT Davies has said.

Mr Davies recently visited the YMCA at their Cardiff base – to discuss the support they provide with chief executive Andrew Templeton.

The #IAMWHOLE campaign aims to encourage young people to challenge harmful language and negative stigma surrounding mental health – and encourage others to speak out and seek help.

Last week in the Senedd Welsh Conservatives tabled a motion calling on the Welsh Government to provide better mental health support in Wales, which received cross-party backing.

Welcoming the Welsh Government's support for

the motion Mr Davies paid tribute to AMs who spoke of personal experiences during the debate.

Mr Davies said: "Mental health issues are as important as physical ones – but because we cannot see them they do not always get treated with equal prominence.

"It's vital we change this and provide those affected with the support they need.

"I'm therefore very grateful to the team at the YMCA for taking the time to meet and discuss the excellent work they have been doing.

"I am delighted to support their #IAMWHOLE campaign, which seeks to tackle the stigma surrounding mental health.

"I welcome the cross-party support last week's debate received – and I look forward to continuing to work to improve mental health provision in Wales."

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Pencoed RFC win a 'battle of attrition' with Taibach



No TMO issues as Tom Cross grounds the ball for a try.
(All photos by Julie Hancock).

PENCOED RFC 15 v 10 TAIBACH

WITH postponements and internationals it was perhaps understandable that both sides would be rusty.

Adam Williams started well enough, however, slotting a penalty after two minutes. The next 28 minutes of play took place between the two 22 metre lines before centre Tom Cross chipped ahead and just about won the race to the touchdown, scoring just to the left of posts. This allowed Adam Williams to duly add the extras.

The score seemed to galvanise Pencoed and on 33 minutes, following good approach play, Liam Callaghan found himself clear 15 metres out. He galloped over, scoring wide out but the

conversion failed.

On 38 minutes, Taibach got their act together and following excellent handling by the backs, their right winger was put clear and ended the move scoring under the posts. The conversion was successful leaving a half time score of 15-7.

The second half turned out to be one of attrition, with both defences to the fore. Taibach kicked a successful penalty on 67 minutes and spent the rest of the game battering the Pencoed try line.

With a combination of resolute defence and Taibach ill-discipline, they could not get another all-important score, leaving Pencoed the winners of this nailbiting match 15-10.

Pencoed's next fixture is away to Morriston on March 3.

SHD



Mal Reece makes a tackle.



Man of the match Kyle Barrett.

Maesteg Quins tested by Tondy, but they still remain unbeaten



Matthew Morgan is tackled.

TONDU 8 MAESTEG QUINS 24
IF the Quins came to Tondy expecting a walk in the park the home side soon dispelled that notion.

Tondy were clearly the sharper side in the opening exchanges and will be disappointed that they were unable to make their advantage show on the scoreboard.

A penalty from outside half Rhodri Davies put the Quins into the lead before Josh Tatchell slotted one for the home side.

There were some dubious refereeing decisions throughout the encounter and Tondy will feel the most aggrieved out of the two sides. There was no further scoring in the first half and the Quins will feel relieved to be on level terms at 3-3.

The second half could not have started any worse for the home side when No 8 Michael Owen charged through some poor tackling to put Maesteg Quins into the lead. Davies added the conversion and the visitors were in front, much against the run of play.

Their second try was a complete fluke midway

through the half. A poor drop goal attempt from Rhodri Davies ended up going out wide on the right and luckily for the Quins, but devastating for Tondy, the ball bounced over the winger's head allowing Jay Ronan in for the try.

Just a minute later the game was put to bed by the Quins when scrum half Ben Davies raced down the left to score in the corner, Davies again adding the extra points.

Despite this, Tondy never gave up and pressed the Quins right up till the final whistle when they were rewarded with a try for hooker Jake Lewis, and they continued to press into the dying moments.

Maesteg Quins maintain their unbeaten start to the season but today they were certainly tested and Tondy can take credit for that. Their performance will surely give them confidence for the remainder of the season.

There is now another Six Nations break before Tondy make the long journey to Kenfig Hill on Saturday, March 3.

Report by Mike Sully

Photos by Gareth Anthony



Josh Tatchell makes a break.
All photographs by Gareth Anthony.



James Goss on the charge.

Phoenix newcomers shine at Gorseinon

PENCOED Phoenix returned to winning ways with this comfortable win against a plucky Gorseinon side who had depleted numbers on the day.

Phoenix skipper Amy Stevens, returning from a five months' injury absence, showed she had not lost her way to the try line, crossing in a determined manner after 10 minutes.

The Phoenix front row of Lucy Cahill, Lowri O'Raw, and Elleri Harries Thomas were dominant at the set scrummage and with second row Rachel Jones ensuring lineout possession, the new-look Phoenix threequarters were given an abundance of ball to play with.

Phoenix soon got their second try with back row forward Rachel Dark showing good hands to link with her backs who handled accurately to put left wing Lisa Hughes over in the corner, much to her obvious delight.

Phoenix almost got a third try on the stroke of the interval, Cahill adjudged held up over the home line.

In the second half, Phoenix were swiftly out of the blocks with Stevens going on an arcing run before skirting the touchline for some 35 metres, with the match official in close attendance, before diving over in the corner for a fine try.

Further Phoenix scrum pressure then got its reward, with Charlotte Mundy playing at outside half, capitalising on loose possession from the retreating home scrum.

Megan Griffiths, who

was enjoying her first game at scrum half for Phoenix, then set up the next try, breaking away before timing her pass well to put Mundy over wide out.

Replacement Emma Raynol on her Phoenix debut then raced over from 22 metres, with Mundy bringing matters to a close with the conversion.

This was a fine all round team performance from Phoenix with several newcomers in the side, in particular, centres Nicole Morgan and Millie Wilson, who both showed good distribution skills throughout, allied to some strong running.

Rachel Dark and Lisa Hughes had their best games for Phoenix to date and can feel well satisfied with their progress.

Amy Stevens and Megan Griffiths were chosen as Phoenix best forward and back respectively.

Next Sunday, Phoenix return to National League 1 action at Haverfordwest.

Phoenix under-15s made it a double on the day winning by 34 points to 29 at Ebbw Vale against a Jesters side which included a couple of Dragons regional squad players.

Centre Mia Davies got a Phoenix try hat-trick, with Ellie Harper, Georgina Davies and Catryn Stacey also crossing the whitewash.

Scrum half Evie Evans added two conversions and was chosen as the Phoenix player of the match.

Gorseinon Ladies 0
Pencoed Phoenix 32.

TR

Bridgend Quiz League teasers

HERE are this week's teasers from the Bridgend Quiz League:

1. To what bird family do the blackbird and robin belong?
2. Aquavit is an alcoholic spirit distilled

from what vegetable?
3. Which river flows into the Dead Sea?

SK

Answers:
1. The thrush family.
2. Potatoes.
3. The Jordan.

Bridgend Quiz League results

THE latest results for the Bridgend Quiz League are as follows:

Crown Maesteg 49, Penybont FC Nomads 52; Five Bells A 41, TyRisha Royals 52; Tondy Railway Club 48, Laleston Inn A 46; Oddfellows Arms Bettws 34, Pheasant Poachers 49; Laleston Inn B 45, Prince of Wales Coychurch 41; Chatterton Shunters 45, Five Bells B 47; Pheasant Gamekeepers 58, Cabo Roche 36.

SK

KARL'S ON A WINNING STREAK AFTER 5 STONE WEIGHT LOSS!

A BARRY slimmer who used his own weight-loss to help others to shed the pounds has been shortlisted in a national competition.

Karl Payne, who runs the Cadoxton Moors Slimming World group, was invited to the organisation's head office as part of its national Consultant Slimmer of the Year competition.

Karl, who has lost an incredible 5 stone, was just one of 30 consultants from across the UK and Ireland to win a place at the semi-finals. Every single one of Slimming World's 4,800 consultants have lost weight with the organisation themselves, giving them a unique understanding of the struggles slimmers often face.

At his heaviest, Karl weighed almost 16 stone and found both his health and confidence were beginning to suffer. So in June 2016, the 44-year-old joined his local Slimming World group.

He started following Slimming World's Food Optimising healthy eating plan and says: "Being able to lose weight without feeling hungry seemed too good to be true; I'm living proof that filling up on healthy foods like fruit and veg, pasta, potatoes and lean meats really does work."

"I was nervous when I first walked through the door of my Slimming World group, but it was without doubt one of the best decisions I've ever made. My whole life is completely different."

"Before I lost weight, I didn't do any real exercise, Slimming World helped me to become much more active too and now I run regularly. I love running so much that I successfully competed in nine local running events throughout 2017, including the Cardiff Half Marathon."

After losing 5st and reaching his target weight of 10st 7.5lb in March 2017, Karl decided to train to become a Slimming World Consultant himself.

Now he supports 65 slimmers at his group in Barry, which is held every Monday at 5.30pm at Cadoxton Moors Community Centre, rear of Edmund Place, Barry, CF63 2NX.

He says: "Before I lost the weight I could never have imagined having the confidence to try new things."

"My worries about my weight almost consumed me and I found it very difficult to do many of the

things I used to enjoy, like playing with my children, going out for meals, wearing fashionable clothes, dressing up for nights out.

"Since joining Slimming World, I might have lost weight, yet I've gained so much more. Bags of confidence, a new zest for life and, of course, my own business!"

"My consultant was such a key part of my journey that the opportunity to do something for people in a similar situation just seemed perfect."

"I honestly feel as though I have the best job in the world, and to have reached the semi-finals of the competition as well is just a dream come true."

Karl's weight loss put him in the running for Slimming World's Consultant Slimmer of the Year 2018 competition, which was open to all of the club's consultants who have lost weight in the last 12 months.

He attended the finals at the club's head office in Derbyshire on February 4 and was presented with a certificate and gift by Slimming World's CEO, Caryl Richards. Unfortunately, Karl was not the overall winner of the competition, but he did walk away feeling 10ft tall, feeling like a winner!

Everyone is welcome at the Barry Slimming World Group; for further information, visit www.slimmingworld.co.uk or call Karl on 07411 621 866.



The same man, but different faces.



Karl Payne



Back in the old days....

Vale MP defends economic record

THE Government has delivered on promises to help finance further growth in the Welsh economy, says Alun Cairns.

The Welsh Secretary and Vale MP said the sum allocated to Wales under the block grant will not fall below £115 per head of the population – compared to £100 in England.

Mr Cairns told MPs: "Some have called for that funding flow for decades, and it is this Government who have delivered on those calls."

"In accordance with the agreement, the Welsh Government have the means to grow the Welsh economy, to attract investment, to maintain public services and to support hard-working people across Wales."

Following the devolution of stamp duty

land tax and landfill tax from April, in addition to the Welsh rate of income tax next year, the Welsh Government will be able to raise more of their own funding through taxes.

"That will make the Welsh Government—and the Assembly in general—much more accountable to the people they serve."

Mr Cairns said that in the autumn Budget the UK Government adjusted the Welsh Government's block grant to take that into account, and the Welsh Government had welcomed the change at the time.

He said the Budget also included specific measures that will be of benefit to Wales, continuing for instance to support the Cardiff and Swansea city deals by investing £650 million over the next 20 years.

Michael Prosser

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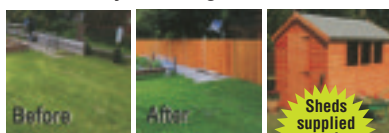
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Family Notices

CASE

Melvin David

Peacefully on 15 February 2018 at Bellavista Nursing Home, Melvin, beloved husband of the late Doreta. A loving father of Peter, Andrew, Tony and Helen. He will be missed by all his grandchildren and great grandchildren also daughters-in-law Ceri, Stef, Gail and son-in-law Mike.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry, until the funeral service at Cardiff & Vale Crematorium on Monday, 5 March at 11am. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

WILLIAMS

William (Bill)

Passed away on 13th February at home, aged 72 years. Husband of Wendy, father of Gary, Leigh, Tracy, father-in-law of Gareth and Loretta. Grandfather of Keiran, Caitlin and Grace.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Thursday, 1st March at 11am. Family flowers only. Donations, in lieu of flowers to The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund.

HANMAN

Jean Winifred

Peacefully on 14 February at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff. Jean Winifred, aged 79 years, of Barry Island. Beloved wife of the late Terry. Much loved mother of Chris and David, mother-in-law of Louise and Hayley. Adored nan of Daryl, Michelle, Keifer and Lucas. Great grandmother of Alfie and Adam.

Jean will be sadly missed by all of her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry until the funeral on Monday, 26 February. Service in the chapel at 12 noon, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium Port, Road East Barry.

SIMS

Cherrie Georgina

Peacefully on February 15th, surrounded by her loving family, Cherrie, devoted wife of Steve, loving mum and mum-in-law to Justin & Leeza, Lisa, Kristian & Amanda, Joel & Charmaine. A cherished nan and great nan to all her grandchildren.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Cherrie is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until her service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry on Thursday, 1st March at 11am.

Family floral tributes only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service or via Cherrie's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk where you are also welcome to leave your personal messages to the family. All donations received to support Marie Curie Hospice.

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FERGUSON

James Rodden

Passed away peacefully at his home on Sunday, 18th February, aged 65 years, surrounded by his devoted wife Julie and his three sons Richard, Anthony and Paul.

A loving husband, father, father-in-law to Jessica and Nicola, gramps to Madelaine, Ruby, Imogen, Leighton and Lois. Brother to Jane and Ian, special brother-in-law, family man and friend.

James will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

His funeral will take place on Friday, 2nd March 2018 at All Saints Church, Barry at 12 noon, followed by a service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 1pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Wales Kidney Research Unit.

WEST

Gwyneth (née Doughty)

Quietly slipped away on 13 February 2018 seven days before her 97th birthday. Devoted and caring mother to Lauraine and Robert. Loving grandmother to Gavin and Heather.

One of the last surviving nurses of World War II nursing soldiers from Dunkirk in 1940. SRN, Midwife and Health Visitor to Ashfield Surgery. Lived life to the full. 'Now rest with your beloved husband Les'.

Forever in our hearts - Lauraine, Peter, Robert and family. Funeral Monday, 5 March, 11.30am at Coychurch Crematorium. Family flowers: Donations Dementia UK.

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WHITTINGTON

William Gordon

M.B.E. BSc, BPharm, F.R.P.S.

Retired in 1987 as General Manager at Bayer Miles Laboratories Bridgend facility.

After many years of serious ill health borne with great courage and good humour, Gordon, passed away on 8th February, aged 89 years. He was a dearly loved and devoted husband to Pat for 51 years, a loving father and lifelong best friend to Neil. Loved and respected by his treasured Suzanne and such a proud and loving pops to his very special grandson Jordan, truly a gift who brought him great joy. Sadly Gordon did not live to see his new grandson Jackson.

A Thanksgiving Service to celebrate Gordon's life will be held at Coychurch Crematorium on Thursday, 1st March at 1.15pm.

No flowers by request but donations, if desired, in aid of Wales Air Ambulance and Water Aid, may be sent to Adrian Oliver, Funeral Director, 51 Cefn Glas Road, Bridgend, CF31 4PJ.

FOXHALL

Edna

Passed away peacefully at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff on 12th February.

Edna will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

A service will be held to celebrate Edna's life at the Cardiff & Vale Crematorium, Port Road, Barry on Wednesday, 28th February at 11am. To celebrate Edna's life please wear something green or blue.

Resting at Robert D. Johnson Funeral Directors, 29 Holton Road, Barry. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

COOK

Thomas (Tommy)

Sadly, after a long illness with his children present, Tommy, aged 68 years. Much loved dad of Kelly, Kristian and daughter-in-law Beccy. Adored bampy of Lucas, Maisie and Imogen.

Tommy will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service in the Chapel of Rest on Friday, 2nd March 2018 at 10.30am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery.

Flowers may be sent to the funeral home or donations, in lieu, if so desired for Marie Curie Hospice Penarth c/o the funeral director.

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Family Notices

WEEDING

Yvonne

The funeral of Yvonne Weeding, aged 88, will be held at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on Monday, 26th February at 11.30am, all welcome. This will be followed by a burial at St John the Baptist Church, Llanblethian.

Yvonne was a committed member of the church, stalwart of the Local History Society, keen Rambler and mother of three. She died peacefully on the 12th February 2018.

Family flowers only, but please feel free to donate to the Childrens Society instead.

Yvonne loved bright colours, so do join the family in wearing a hint of pink.

FULGONI

Jean

Peacefully at Llandough Hospital on 18th February 2018, Jean, aged 89 years. Dearly loved wife of the late Tony, much loved mother of Angela, Mario and Bernadette. Cherished grandmother of Mariclaire, Gabrielle, Danielle, Alexander and Caterina, also loved great grandmother to Francesca, Dylan and Maximus.

Jean will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the Requiem Mass on Wednesday, 28th February at 1.30pm, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

JAMES

John Horace

Peacefully on Tuesday, 13th February at the Anwen Nursing Home, Blackmill, Bridgend.

John (Jim) will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday, 5th March, service and cremation 1.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend.

Family flowers only, donations if desired to Wales Air Ambulance or Dementia UK c/o the funeral director.

LLOYD

John Michael

Passed away peacefully on Sunday, February 11th. Beloved husband of Adene.

Memorial service Thursday, March 1st at Ramoth UFC, Cowbridge at 12.15pm. Family flowers only.

Acknowledgements

DOLMAN

David

Audrey and family would like to thank friends, neighbours and all concerned for their kind messages received after the death of David.

WRIGHT

Alan

Coral, Pamela and family would like to thank everyone for the flowers, letters and cards received following the loss of Alan and to all who attended his funeral.

Special thanks to the Rector and Nicholas the organist.

Thanks also to Andrew and Thomas Brothers for their support at this sad time.

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It was 140 years ago that Penarth's first train arrived!

by Brian Keitch

THE opening of Penarth Docks in 1865 was the first step in the creation of the town of Penarth but it was not until February 20, 1878 that a railway was built to the town itself.

From the station's position one assumes that the town was expected to extend further south – which eventually it did for the new railway station attracted few shops and businesses to its quarter of the town. All that lay ahead was a few hamlets and farms.

When the southward expansion did come it was in the form of residential development, and Glebe Street and Windsor Road remained the shopping centre of Penarth.

The arrival of the railway in the town was greeted with celebrations, but as the South Wales Gazette suggests, people in the 'centre' of the town were little concerned.

The report entitled *Opening of Penarth Railway* appeared in the Gazette on February 25, 1878 and included the following:

'This new line of railway was opened on Wednesday. During Tuesday and Tuesday night the officials of this company were kept busy in completing the necessary arrangements, and so successful were they that the opening passed off without a hitch or delay of any kind.

'The road over the railway,

West House, the station and the platform were gay with flags of all countries and colours. To enliven the proceedings, the band of the Penarth Rifles had been specially engaged, and just before the time advertised for starting the first train, put in an appearance led by Sergeant Instructor Parsons.

'The Penarth Artillery Band under the leadership of Mr Paul Draper also attended. Both bands accompanied the train to Cardiff and back. The first train left Penarth at 7.35 and about that time the platform became crowded with a large number of people who intended to accompany it on its first journey.

'A still much larger number congregated on the bridge over the railway, from which standpoint they had a good view of the line and platform.

'With Taff Vale Railway punctuality, the train consisting of five carriages was set in motion. The engine driver resigned his post for the time being in favour of Mr R. Forrest, agent of the Windsor estate, who as representative of Lord Windsor, thus had the honour of driving the first passenger train from Penarth to Cardiff.

'Penarth Dock station was reached by 7.40 and Cardiff by 7.50. The train left Cardiff for the return journey at 8.30 and arrived at Penarth at 8.45. On alighting the passengers at the instigation of Mr DT Alexander gave three

cheers for the success of the new railway, and three cheers for Mr Forrest, to whose exertions much of the success attending the completion of the line is due.

'The following officials attended the opening – Messrs J Hurman, traffic superintendent, J Edwards, E Edwards, J Riches, Leyshon and E Strange of the Taff Vale Railway, and Mr Allen of the Great Western Railway. The Rev C Parsons, the rector, and a large number of gentlemen and tradesmen of the place accompanied the train, which was run free.

'The guard was Richard Carpenter and the engine driver, Daniel Thomas. A banquet in honour of the event, which a large number of gentlemen attended was given at the Penarth Hotel in the evening and to this agents of the Windsor Estate and the officials of the Taff Vale Railway, who had assisted in the opening of the line were invited.'

The line to Penarth was doubled a few years later – the station expended to no fewer than four platforms on the opening of the line to Lavernock, Sully and Cadoxton in 1887 (plus a fifth – excursion platform).

In addition facilities were made for goods, carriages and locomotives. Now Penarth station has but one platform, but trains every 15 minutes throughout the day.

Ardderchog!

Bridgend Sports junior round-up

UNDER-7S

IT was great to see the rain holding off for the Bridgend Sports under-7s to enjoy a 'tag tastic' morning against Kenfig Hill.

While the overall score saw Kenfig Hill win, a fabulous effort was made by all the team. A big improvement was seen in the passing, much to the delight of the coaches.

The game saw some excellent tries. Ollie Balmer was top try scorer with four fantastic tries and five tags. Three further tries were scored throughout the game, and a speedy run by Tyler Pascoe resulted in a great try, as well as two tags.

Leo showed a great presence throughout the game scoring a brilliant try and three tags. Ellis Kendall was on fire with a great try and six tags.

Bailey, Seb and Mikey were always among the action and defended fiercely. Top tagger was Archie Hall with 13 tags. Isaac had a brilliant game getting 'stuck in' at every opportunity – we saw four great tags from him. Oscar Gee had an amazing game – you could tell he turned seven! He was running quickly, passing well and bagged himself four tags.

The scoresheet is a pleasure to review, a real team effort with achievements from everyone.

Player of the game was awarded to Oscar Gee for his improvement, speed and overall efforts.

Most improved player was awarded to the speedy Leo D'Adamo, who not only had a great game today, but he has been consistent in his achievements and always gives 100 per cent every week.

UNDER-8S

Bridgend Sports 23 Kenfig Hill 28

THERE was some great passing and good tagging all round.

The under-8s played some great rugby with everyone working well together.

There were tries from Dan Perriman, Rafferty Williams, Kayden Jones, AJ Cawley, Gethin Jones, Zack Hughes, Dan Flower, Max Hearing, Harry Trevelyan and Rhys Evans.

Player of the Week goes to Dan Flower.

UNDER-9S

Bridgend Sports 15 Kenfig Hill 45

SPORTS took a little while to get into this game, with the bigger opposition using their bulk to break through some suspect defence.

The Mules played a simple but effective game plan, hitting their big players up the middle before moving it wide for their flyers to run in unopposed.

However, all the Sports players today contributed, with Billy, Griff Lewis, Jayden Walters, Liam Sales and Stan McEvoy all putting in brave tackling performances.

With the ever-willing Leo Giraud, Gethin Evans and Harry Mallinson making some barn storming charges, they forced the opposition into dragging a few players in to try and stop them.

Quickly recycled ball allowed the likes of Noah

Roberts, Lucas Hostettler-Davies, Oskar Amerein, Ollie Alexandre, Cai Boucher and Will Howe to run the three-quarter line well.

Sports tries came courtesy of a brace from Leo Giraud and a try for today's Sports player of the match – Billy Carpenter-Davies.

UNDER-10S

Bridgend Sports 10 Kenfig Hill 55

THIS was a very hard game of rugby with the score not reflected by the score line against a strong and well drilled Kenfig Hill under-10s team.

The Sports started the match well with some good hard rugby and surprised Kenfig Hill with the first try of the match by Charlie Paget, but Kenfig Hill came back straight away with a few more tries. The Sports carried on fighting every ruck and also won plenty of Kenfig Hill's ball with good counter rucking.

The second half was much of the same, with Charlie scoring a well-deserved second try, but it was fantastic to see all 11 players play good hard rugby and see what the coaches have been trying to do in training go onto the field of play.

The player of the week went to Joe Perriman for an outstanding all round performance.

UNDER-11S

Sports 33 Kenfig Hill 14

A SCRAPPY win today against tough opposition as we would expect against the Mules.

We know the Mules are going to be aggressive but our notorious slow start appeared again this morning with Kenfig winning the contact area.

The game could not have started more perfectly. Sports kicked off the game, chased and made an excellent tackle. They then turned over the ball and Rhys Anthony scored the first try of the morning.

The rest of the first half Sports struggled to keep hold of the ball in the wet conditions and were second best in the ruck area.

The Mules scored a well worked try, going wide and exploiting the space as the Sports defence were too narrow. Sports struck back with Sam Gardner charging down a kick to score a try. The Mules finished strongly, scoring the final try of the half. All tries were converted 14-14.

In the second half we controlled the game much better with more patience and the rucking was much more aggressive, enabling us to have more ball. Three more tries were scored through Dominic John, Dan Harris and Jack Sperry. Jack also converted two of the three tries in the second half.

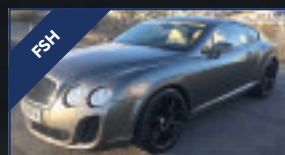
Well done to Jack, Dan, Tom, Rhys, Tyler, Eli, Dylan, Deacon, Curtis, Lewis, Dom, Sam King, Sam Gardner, Toby and Evan.

UNDER-12S

Bridgend Sports 31 Cambrian Welfare 7

TRY scorers for the Sports were Tom Chick who scored a hat trick, Callum Lewis and Cian John.

There were three conversions by Callum Jones.

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Wayne makes it 350 not out for Athletic

WAYNE FOOKS, the daddy of the first team, made his 350th senior appearance for the Athletic in the 20-8 victory against Aberavon Quins.

This club legend has the most Athletic appearances for a forward and stands second only to current coach Stuart Morris, who has 458 senior appearances on the all-time Athletic senior appearances list.

Two of the current Athletic coaching team – backs coach Stuart and forwards coach David Williams – played alongside Wayne earlier in his career.

Having played in most of the club age group teams, Wayne played youth before 20 seasons ago, in 1998, he made his first senior appearance. He has played 281 times for the 1st XV and 69 for the 2nd XV.

Wayne has seen the club progress from the old Division 5 through to the championship, and currently doing well in Division 1 West Central, holding off the challenge of many club props of far greater stature than him. Not many opposing props have outscrummed him.

Remarkably he came back from a double ankle and leg fracture in a championship game at Narbeth two seasons ago. He has crossed for 29 tries and has 145 points to his name.

Wayne remembers playing in a Silver Ball final with the likes of Lee Byrne, Stuart Morris, Robert Coles, Gareth Bartlett and Lee Grabham in the same team.

He is a very popular player and person with everybody associated with club to which he has given so much. This was duly recognised when he was once awarded clubman of the year. He

is also among a handful of players awarded an Athletic cap.

Wayne coached the mini and juniors, tracking his son Brandon (now with the Youth Rags) through the age groups from under-7 to under-16. He is now on a second cycle coaching the under-7s, currently the team in which his daughter Lauren plays.

Team manager Paul Hearne, added: "Wayne, or 'Wayne the train' as he has become known to his team mates, is without doubt an integral part of the 1st XV as well as the club. He is a clubman through and through and to play so many games is a testament to his dedication and fitness. He is a secret trainer seen in a gymnasium most mornings!"

"Wayne is the only human being I know who can eat his own bodyweight in pies and pasties and still be able to train and play! Seriously, he is a credit to Bridgend Athletic RFC and long may he continue playing for us."

Forwards coach David Williams, remarked: "Wayne has been great to coach. To play in the demanding position of prop forward for so long is a massive achievement."

Backs coach and the only former Ath player with more appearances (458) than Wayne, Stuart Morris, perfectly summed up Wayne: "For me, he is an exceptional club man, a very good trainer who, over the years, has become a cornerstone of the 1st team side/squad."

"A mark of his commitment to Bridgend Athletic, is returning from a career-threatening injury at the age of 37 to retain his position in the first team. He is a credit to our club, his family and himself."

Adrian Burt



Wayne Fooks tackling against Aberavon Quins.



Wayne Fooks playing against Aberavon Quins.

Barry skittles league: all the latest results

DIVISION 1

Bakers Dozen 280 (E Lewis, K James and M Lowie 27) v Fallen Angels 249 (S Jones 26); Pila Pala 317 (J Griffiths 33) v Family Affair 328 (J Waldon and G Taylor 34); Space Finders 317 (H Webb 33) v Sea View Gals 328 (C Provis and T Warner 32); Coppers 341 (D Nesbitt 34) v Red Admiral 279 (S Clements 31); Cadroxton Conservative Fillies 244 (S Chilcott 27) v Barry Stars 225 (C Lambeth 27); Allsorts 268 (S Greenwell and R Dawe 27) v Colcot Ladies 228 (D Mansbridge 26).

DIVISION 2

Castle Bandits 243 (B Evans 27) v Sea View Lights 167 (N Alsop 24); Roller Coasters 217 (B Maffrey 26) v Bobby's Girls 218 (S Nelson and G Toogood 26); Special Angels 235 (B Gilbert and P Grisdale 24) v Clickies 192 (K Watts 24); LaBells 318 (N Cordy 35) v Breakaways 330 (J Swayne and J Watkins 36); Witchill Weebies 292 (R Royle 33) v Rhooose

Starlights 303 (D Stradling 36); Challengers 298 (B Griffiths 30) v Witchill Widows 230 (L Spyrou 30).

DIVISION 3

Off the Rails 246 (J Cattle and G Griffiths 24) v Etcetera 248 (S Dyke 28); Sea View Ladies 301 (L McGivern 35) v Rugby Triers 295 (M Howells 29); Up Town Girls 249 (J Hawkins 29) v Hillbillies 204 (M Brinkworth 24); Westenders 252 (C Gee 29) v After Eights 201 (L Way 25); Little Devils 253 (S Harrihy 32) v Persuaders 244 (M Appleby 26).

DIVISION 4

Liberals 240 (R Keene 24) v Odd Bods 147 (K Dutton 26); Livin on a Spare 314 (D Davies 37) v Witchill Wanderers 301 (L Morrissey 34); Nite Outers 198 (V McCoan and M Hudson 23) v Hellraisers 226 (G Davies 24); Guardian Angels 150 (S Clarke 25) v Twilights 220 (H Brown 25); Boozy Birds 308 (S Rudeforth and L Harris 35) v Aristocats 301 (J Davies 33).

Young Rhooose boxer takes record to three wins out of four

LAST Friday, February 16, Rhooose ABC came away with a win from a show put on by Pentine Boxing Club in Newbridge.

That victory came from 12-year-old Brandon Harris (48kg), who was on good form.

Brandon continuously put his opponent under pressure by coming forward in all three rounds.

With head coach Michael Smyth

away on National Squad training duties, coach Wayne Cummins was in the corner with the 12-year-old fighter.

It was a strong performance and a unanimous decision made this bout Brandon's third win of four fights.

Rhooose ABC trains Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 6pm to 7.30pm.

Contact Michael Smyth 07929 428 240.

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15 65 BMW 640 D M Sport Gran Coupe 4dr automatic, BMW warranty Nov 2018, sat nav, 19" alloys, 27k, silver, full leather **£24995**



SKODA WARRANTY OCT 2019
16 66 SKODA OCTAVIA 1.6 TDI Greenline III SE Business 5dr, Skoda warranty Sep 2019, sat nav, cruise, black **£10995**



MERCEDES WARRANTY OCT 2018
15 65 MERCEDES A200 CDI Sport Edition 5dr, cruise, reverse camera, met blue with full leather **£14495**



MINI WARRANTY SEPT 2019
16 66 MINI CLUBMAN 2.0 D COOPER 6dr, sat nav, chilli pack, 10k, white **£14295**



BMW WARRANTY APRIL 2019
14 64 BMW 118 2.0 D Sport 5dr, sat nav, 18" alloys, m sport pack, xenons, PDC, 29k, red **£12495**



BMW WARRANTY APRIL 2019
16 16 BMW 535 D M Sport 4dr automatic, BMW warranty April 2019, M Sport plus pack, sat nav, 19" alloys, electric sunroof, 10k, choice **£22995**



MINI WARRANTY JULY 2018
15 15 MINI COUNTRYMAN 1.6 COOPER S ALL4 5dr (Sport & TLC pack) MINI warranty July 2018, Bluetooth, USB, 22k, blue, full leather **£15995**



14 14 MERCEDES BENZ E250 CDI AMG Sport coupe 7G-Tronic 18, panoramic roof, sat nav, 18" black alloys, black, full red leather **£17995**



14 64 MERCEDES GLA220 CDI AMG Line 5dr 4Matic, 18" alloys, reverse camera, 27k, white, half-leather **£18995**



14 14 VW GOLF 2.0 TDI Tech GT 5dr, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, full leather, met red **£10995**



VW WARRANTY JULY 2019
16 16 VW GOLF 2.0 TSI BlueMotion Tech GTI 3dr, VW warranty July 2019, sat nav, heated seats, 12k, black **£20495**



14 14 CITROEN GRAND C4 PICASSO 1.6 e-HDi Air-ream VTR+ 5dr (7-seater) Bluetooth, cruise, pdc **£9995**



15 15 BMW 320i D M Sport 4dr automatic, BMW warranty July 2018, sat nav, 19" alloys, electric sunroof, 30k, black, full oyster leather **£18995**



15 15 BMW 420i M Sport 2dr coupe, BMW warranty March 2018, sat nav, 18" alloys, Bluetooth, black, full leather **£15995**



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14 64 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDi 105 5dr AWD, Kia warranty Nov 2019, Bluetooth, USB, cruise, 27k, white **£11995**

15 64 AUDI A1 1.4 TFSI S-Line 5dr, 17" alloys, Bluetooth, 15k, blue, half leather **£13995**

14 64 AUDI A3 1.2 TFSI Sport 5dr S-Tronic, Bluetooth, DAB, AMI, 23k, black **£13495**

16 16 AUDI A3 1.6 TDI Quattro Sport 4dr, Audi warranty April 2019, sat nav, Bluetooth, 18" alloys, 13k, white **£16995**

14 64 AUDI A3 2.0 TDI Sport 4dr, sat nav, DAB, AMI, white **£11995**

14 64 AUDI A3 2.0 TDI S-Line 2dr Cabriolet, 19" alloys, sat nav, 13k, white, full leather **£17995**

16 66 AUDI A5 2.0 TDI Black Edition Plus Quattro 5dr S-Tronic, Audi warranty, Oct 2019, sat nav, 19" alloys, 12k, misano red, full leather **£24495**

12 12 AUDI A6 2.0 TDI S-Line 4dr, sat nav, heated seats, cruise, ice silver, full leather **£12495**

14 64 AUDI Q3 2.0 TDI S-Line Plus Quattro 5dr, sat nav, 19" alloys, privacy glass, 31k, met brown, half leather **£18495**

15 65 AUDI TT 2.0 TDI Sport Ultra 3dr Coupe, Audi warranty Sep 2018, 18" alloys, Bluetooth, 3k, white, half leather **£19995**

15 65 AUDI TT 2.0 TFSI S-Line Quattro Roadster 2dr S-Tronic, Audi warranty Sep 2018, sat nav, 19" alloys, grey, full leather **£23995**

12 12 AUDI TT 2.0 TDI Quattro Black Edition 2dr Coupe, 19" alloys, cruise, comfort pack in met grey **£12995**

14 14 BMW 116 EfficientDynamics Business Edition 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, met white, full leather **£9995**

16 66 BMW 116 D M Sport 5dr, BMW warranty Oct 2019, sat nav, 18" alloys, Bluetooth, silver **£15495**

13 13 BMW 118 D M Sport Plus 2dr convertible, 18" alloys, heated seats, carbon black with full oyster beige leather **£11995**

14 64 BMW 118 2.0 D M Sport 3dr automatic, sat nav, Harman kardon, 18" alloys, 25k, white **£13995**

14 14 BMW 120 D M Sport 3dr (184bhp) sat nav, xenons, 18" alloys, estoril blue, full leather **£13495**

14 64 BMW 120 D M Sport XDRIVE 5dr (184bhp) Bluetooth, cruise, PDC, 30k, blue **£12995**

15 65 BMW M135 3.0 S Sport 3dr (326bhp), sat nav, Harman Kardon, 18" alloys, Bluetooth, 26k, estoril blue with full leather **£17995**

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17 17 BMW 218 D M Sport 2dr coupe, BMW warranty Aug 2020, sat nav, heated seats, 2k, blue, full leather **£20995**

14 14 BMW M235i 3.0 2dr automatic (326 BHP), pro nav, xenons, Harman kardon, 29k, choice, full leather **£20995**

16 16 BMW M235i 3.0 2dr convertible, BMW warranty March 2019, sat nav, PDC, silver, full leather **£23995**

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14 64 BMW 318 D M Sport Estate automatic, Bluetooth, 19" alloys, 19k, estoril blue, full leather **£17495**

13 63 BMW 320 D M Sport 4dr, sat nav, 19" alloys, heated seats, privacy glass, estoril blue, full leather **£13995**

14 14 BMW 320 D M Sport Gran Turismo 5dr, pro nav, Bluetooth, estoril blue, full leather **£15995**

15 15 BMW 320i EfficientDynamics BluePerformance Business Edition 4dr (163bhp), BMW warranty June 2018, 18" alloys, sat nav, 15k, black, full oyster leather **£16495**

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11 11 BMW 520 D M Sport 4dr automatic, sat nav, DAB, 19" alloys, black, full leather **£12995**

14 64 BMW 520 D Luxury 4dr, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, PDC front & rear, heated seats, met blue, full leather **£12495**

15 65 BMW 520 D M Sport Estate automatic (190bhp) BMW warranty Jan 2019, sat nav, DAB, black, full leather **£17495**

15 65 BMW 520 D M Sport 4dr automatic (190bhp), sat nav, 18" alloys, full leather, 25k, choice **£17495**

15 65 BMW 520 DSE 4dr (190) automatic, BMW warranty Oct 2018, sat nav, bluetooth, choice, full leather **£16995**

15 65 BMW 520 D M Sport Gran Turismo 5dr automatic, BMW warranty Dec 2018, 20" alloys, sat nav, 21k, full leather, choice **£20995**

16 65 BMW 535 ActiveHybrid M Sport 4dr automatic, BMW warranty Feb 2019, service pack, sat nav, head-up display, Harman Kardon, 21k, grey, full leather **£23995**

13 13 BMW 640 DSE 2dr coupe automatic, 20" alloys, soft close doors, reverse camera, sat nav, 31k, blue, full leather **£19995**

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16 66 FORD FIESTA 1.5 TDCI Titanium X 5dr, Ford warranty Oct 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, 13k, black **£10995**

16 66 FORD FIESTA 1.5 TDCI Zetec 5dr, Ford warranty Dec 2019, Bluetooth, alloys, DAB, 10k, white **£8795**

16 66 FORD FOCUS 1.0 ecoBOOST Zetec S 5dr automatic, Ford warranty Oct 2019, DAB, Bluetooth, 10k, white **£12495**

15 15 FORD FOCUS 1.6 Zetec 4dr automatic, Ford warranty Aug 2018, DAB, alloys, Bluetooth, grey **£9495**

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14 64 HYUNDAI i30 1.6 CRDi Bluedrive Active 5dr, Hyundai warranty Dec 2019, cruise, USB, PDC, 22k, grey **£8495**

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16 16 KIA SOUL EV 5dr automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, cruise, heated seats, 7k, met blue. £15995

15 15 KIA SPORTAGE 1.7 CRDI 1 ISG 5dr, Kia warranty March 2022, cruise, bluetooth, USB, 22k, white. £12495

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15 15 LEXUS CT200H 1.8 Advance Plus 5dr CVT automatic, pan roof, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 20k, met white, half leather. £15495

14 64 MAZDA 6 2.2 D SE-L Estate, sat nav, Bluetooth, PDC front & rear, choice. £8795

15 65 MAZDA 6 2.2 D Sport Nav 4dr, Mazda warranty Oct 2018, sat nav, heated seats, 28k, silver, full leather. £13495

14 64 MAZDA CX-5 2.2 TD Sport 4WD 5dr (175bhp), sat nav, reverse camera, Bose, full leather, choice, automatic or manual from. £11995

10 10 MAZDA MX-5 1.8 20TH Anniversary 2dr convertible, 17" alloys, aircon, 32k, met blue. £7495

15 15 MERCEDES A180 CDI Sport 5dr, cruise, Bluetooth, 33k, white, half leather. £13995

16 65 MERCEDES A180 D Sport Edition 5dr & G-DCT automatic, reverse camera, full leather, 25k, choice. £14495

15 65 MERCEDES A200 CDI Sport Edition 5dr, cruise, reverse camera, met blue with full leather. £14495

14 14 MERCEDES B180 CDI Sport 5dr 7G-DCT, 18" alloys, reverse camera, 35k, grey, full leather. £12495

14 63 MERCEDES B200 CDI SE 5dr, sat nav, PDC, white. £10995

16 16 MERCEDES B200 CDI AMG Line 5dr 7G-DCT, Mercedes warranty March 2019, sat nav, Bluetooth, reverse camera, 13k, grey, full leather. £17495

14 64 MERCEDES C180 AMG Sport Edition (Premium Plus) 2dr Coupe 7G-Tronic Plus, pan roof, sat nav, cruise, reverse camera, 15k, silver with half-leather. £17995

15 15 MERCEDES C220 CDI BlueTEC Sport 4dr, sat nav, privacy glass, grey. £16495

15 15 MERCEDES C250 CDI AMG Sport 2dr coupe 7G-Tronic Plus, Mercedes warranty Sep 2018, 18" alloys, cruise, Bluetooth, 15k, silver, half leather. £16995

15 65 MERCEDES C250 CDI AMG Line (Premium Plus) Estate automatic, pan roof, sat nav, 19" alloys, 25k, choice, full leather. £22995

15 65 MERCEDES C350 E Sport 4dr automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, silver with full leather. £20495

13 63 MERCEDES E220 CDI AMG Sport Cabriolet 7G-Tronic Plus, sat nav, airscarf heating, choice, full leather. £17995

15 65 MERCEDES E220 CDI BlueTec AMG Line Cabriolet 7G-Tronic Plus, Mercedes warranty October 2018, sat nav, 18" alloys, white, full leather. £21495

15 65 MERCEDES E220 CDI BlueTec AMG Night Edition 7G-Tronic plus Estate, Mercedes warranty Sep 2018, sat nav, DAB Bluetooth, choice, full leather. £18995

13 63 MERCEDES E220 AMG Sport 4dr 7G-Tronic plus, sat nav, xenons, grey, full leather. £14495

15 65 MERCEDES E220 CDI BlueTec AMG Night Edition 4dr 7-G Tronic Plus, Mercedes warranty Oct 2018, sat nav, privacy glass, choice, full leather. £18495

14 64 MERCEDES E250 CDI AMG Sport 4dr 7G-Tronic plus, panoramic roof, sat nav, 13k, silver, half leather/alcantara. £20995

14 64 MERCEDES E250 CDI AMG Sport 2dr Coupe 7G-Tronic Plus, sat nav, reverse camera, cruise, 16k, black, full leather. £19995

15 65 MERCEDES GLA200 CDI Sport (Executive) 5DR 7G-DCT, sat nav, DAB, 18" alloys, choice, full leather. £17995

14 64 MERCEDES GLA220 CDI AMG Line Premium Plus 5dr 7G-DCT 4Matic, pan roof, 19" alloys, reverse camera, 26k, half-leather. £21495

12 62 MERCEDES SLK200 BlueEfficiency AMG Sport 2dr 7G-Tronic Plus, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 18" alloys, 19k, white with full leather. £14995

14 64 MERCEDES SLK250 CDI BlueEfficiency 2dr convertible 7G-Tronic Plus, airscarf-neck level heating, Bluetooth, indium silver, full leather. £14495

17 17 MINI CLUBMAN 2.0 Cooper S 6dr Estate automatic (JCW bodykit) chilli + media pack, sat nav, 5k, silver with full leather. £20995

15 15 MINI COOPER 1.5 D 5dr, chilli + TLC pack, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, dab, half-leather, 19k, met blue. £10995

15 65 MINI COOPER 1.5 D 5dr, chilli pack, Bluetooth, 25k, choice. £9495

14 64 MINI COOPER 2.0 COOPER S 5dr (TLC Pack)(192bhp), JCW bodykit, sat nav, head up display, Harman Kardon, 17" black alloys, volcanic orange, half leather. £12995

16 66 MINI COOPER 2.0 SD 3dr (170 bhp), chilli pack, Mini warranty Oct 2019, sat nav, DAB, USB, 17" alloys, 8k, black, half leather. £13995

16 66 MINI COOPER 2.0 SD 5dr (Chili Pack) MINI warranty Jan 2020, sat nav, privacy glass, 9k, grey. £13995

14 64 MINI COUNTRYMAN 1.6 COOPER ALL4 5dr (TLC & Pepper Pack) Bluetooth, 17" black alloys, 24k, starlight blue. £10995

15 64 MINI COUPE 1.6 Cooper 2dr, chilli + TLC pack, 17" alloys, heated seats, 25k, half-leather, choice. £8495

13 13 MINI ONE 1.6 D 3dr (Sport Chili pack) Bluetooth, alloys, 33k, ice blue. £6995

14 64 MINI PACEMAN 1.6 COOPER 3dr (TLC & Pepper Pack) sat nav, 17" black alloys, mfsw, 22k, black. £11795

14 63 MITSUBISHI ASX 1.8 TD 4 5dr, 4WD, panoramic roof, sat nav, cruise, 28k, silver, full leather. £10795

16 66 MITSUBISHI ASX 2.2 DI-D 4 4WD 5dr automatic, Mitsubishi Dec 2019, panoramic roof, sat nav, 13k, black, full leather. £15995

14 64 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER 2.0 PHEV GX3h 4x4 5dr automatic, cruise, Bluetooth, met blue, half leather. £12995

15 65 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER 2.2 DI-D GX3 5dr (7-Seater), cruise, pdc, Bluetooth, 9k, black. £17995

15 65 NISSAN NOTE 1.2 N-Tec 5dr, Nissan warranty Oct 2018, sat nav, reverse camera, 11k, white. £8495

16 66 NISSAN PULSAR 1.5 DCI Acenta 5dr, cruise, Bluetooth, alloys, red. £9495

14 14 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI Acenta (Smart Vision Pack) cruise, 33k, red. £9995

14 64 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI Acenta Premium 5dr, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, Bluetooth, 13k, choice. £11995

14 64 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI Tekna 5dr, 19" alloys, sat nav, reverse camera, pan roof, 23k, choice, full leather. £12795

15 15 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI Acenta 5dr, Nissan warranty April 2018, cruise, Bluetooth, 28k, choice. £10995

15 65 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI N-Tec+ 5dr, pan roof, sat nav, 22k, choice. £13495

14 64 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 DCI Tekna 5dr 4WD (130bhp), pan roof, full leather, sat nav, black. £11995

16 16 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DCI Tekna 5dr 4WD (7-Seater), pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, black with full leather. £17495

17 17 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 DCI Tekna XTRONIC 5dr automatic, Nissan warranty April 2020, sat nav, pan roof, 19" alloys, met red. £17495

12 62 PEUGEOT RCZ 1.6 THP Sport 2dr coupe, 18" alloys, cruise, Bluetooth, 42k, grey. £7995

14 63 RANGEROVER EVOQUE 2.2 SD4 Pure Tech AWD 5dr automatic, pan roof, 19" alloys, sat nav, 27k, Firenze red, full leather. £22995

15 64 RANGEROVER EVOQUE 2.2 SD4 Dynamic 5dr, 20" alloys, sat nav, privacy glass, 11k, met red, full two tone leather. £25995

15 15 RENAULT CAPTUR 1.5 DCI Energy Expression+ 5dr, cruise, alloys, Bluetooth, met blue. £7995

14 64 RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI Energy GT Line Tom Tom 2dr Coupe, sat nav, Bluetooth, 35k, blue, half leather. £8495

15 65 RENAULT SCENIC Xmod 1.6 DCI Energy Dynamique 5dr, Renault warranty Oct 2018, sat nav, PDC, met red. £8995

16 66 SEAT ALHAMBRA 2.0 TDI Ecomotive SE 5dr (7-seater) Seat warranty Aug 2019, alloys, pdc front & rear, choice. £16995

16 66 SKODA OCTAVIA 2.0 TDI SE Business 5dr Automatic, Skoda warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, Bluetooth, DAB, choice. £11995

16 16 VAUXHALL ADAM 1.4 VVTI 16V Slam 3dr, 17" alloys, Bluetooth, red, half-leather. £7995

16 16 VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC 1.4 T 3dr, Vauxhall warranty April 2016, 18" alloys, cruise, DAB, 13k, white. £8995

15 15 VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC 2.0 CDTI SRI 3dr, Vauxhall warranty Oct 2018, 18" alloys, cruise, 23k, choice. £8995

15 15 VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.7 CDTI SE 5dr automatic, cruise, Bluetooth, heated seats, full leather, 28k, black. £10495

12 12 VW GOLF 1.6 TDI BlueMotion Tech SE cabriolet, cruise, pdc, 31k, black. £8495

15 65 VW GOLF 2.0 TDI BlueMotion Tech GTD 5dr, VW warranty Jan 2019, sat nav, heated seats, PDC, 21k, choice, automatic or manual, from. £16495

16 66 VW PASSAT 1.6 TDI Bluemotion Tech GT Estate, panoramic glass roof, sat nav, adaptive cruise, heated seats, 8k, black with half-leather. £17995

15 15 VOLVO V40 1.6 D2 SE 5r, panoramic glass roof, Bluetooth, black. £8995

15 65 VOLVO V40 1.6 D2 R-Design 5dr, Volvo warranty Oct 2018, 17" alloys, Bluetooth, 12k, black. £12995

13 63 VOLVO XC60 2.0 D4 R-Design 5dr, 18" alloys, Bluetooth, black, half-leather. £15495

15 65 VOLVO XC60 2.0 D4 SE 5dr Geartronic, Volvo warranty Dec 2018, privacy glass, DAB, Bluetooth, black, full leather. £17995

16 66 VOLVO XC60 2.4 D4 SE Lux Nav 5dr 4X4 automatic, Volvo warranty Sep 2019, sat nav, 15k, silver, full leather. £22995

16 65 VOLVO XC90 T8 Hybrid Momentum AWD 5dr automatic (7-Seater), pan roof, sat nav, cruise, met blue with full leather. £42995



14 64 MERCEDES CLA220 CDI AMG Sport 4dr 7G-DCT, Night package, Bluetooth, black, half leather. £14995



16 66 BMW 520 D M Sport 4dr automatic (190bhp), sat nav, heated seats, full leather, service inclusive, 17k, white. £21995



15 65 MERCEDES CLS 220 CDI AMG Line 4dr automatic, Mercedes warranty Dec 2018, 19" alloys, sat nav, 18k, grey, full leather. £22995



14 64 MERCEDES C220 CDI BlueTec AMG Line 4dr 7G-Tronic plus, sat nav, 19" alloys, white, full leather. £18995



14 64 RANGEROVER EVOQUE 2.2 ED4 Pure Tech 5dr, sat nav, 18" alloys, heated seats, black, full leather. £19495



14 64 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2.2 CRDI Premium SE 5dr automatic (7-Seater) Hyundai warranty December 2021, sat nav, 18" alloys, heated seats, choice. £18995



16 65 MINI COOPER 2.0 SD 5dr (170bhp), chilli pack, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, DAB, 9k, choice. £12495



15 65 MERCEDES GLA250 CDI AMG Line 4MATIC 5dr automatic, Mercedes warranty Nov 2018, sat nav, 20" alloys, 17k, white, full leather. £32995



16 65 JEEP RENEGADE 2.0 MultiJet II LTD 4WD 5dr, Jeep warranty Feb 2019, sat nav, heated seats, 16k, red, full leather. £14995



15 15 FIAT 500 1.2 Lounge 3dr start/stop, pan roof, Bluetooth, 25k, choice. £5995



13 62 PEUGEOT 208 1.4 HDI Access + 5dr, aircon, cruise, 24k, black. £5995



14 63 BMW X1 XDRIVE18D X-Line 5dr, 18" alloys, heated seats, 15k, silver, full leather. £13995



14 64 MERCEDES A180 CDI AMG Sport 5dr 7G DCT Automatic, 18" alloys, cruise, night pack, with half-leather, choice from. £13995



16 16 MERCEDES B200 CDI AMG Line 5dr, Mercedes warranty June 2019, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, grey, Half leather. £16995

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12 JAGUAR XF 2.2 Diesel SE Auto
In black with black leather,
39,000 miles
£13,495



56 BMW 330 Diesel SE Coupe 6-speed
In met-blue, with cream
leather 102,000 miles
£5,495



16 NISSAN Pulsar 1.2 DIG-T Tekna
In met red, 9,000 miles,
under Nissan warranty
£10,995



RANGE Rover Sport 3.0 TDV6 Autobiography Auto
In met-grey, 46,000 miles
superb example
£24,995



63 PORSCHE Cayman 2.7 Auto
In white, 10,000 miles,
host of extras
£34,995

63 **PORSCHE Cayman 2.7 Auto** In white, 10,000 miles, host of extras **REDUCED TO £34,995**

11 **RANGE Rover Sport 3.0 TDV6 Autobiography Automatic** met grey, 52,000 miles, **REDUCED BY £1000 TO £24,995**

01 **JAGUAR XK8 4.0 V8 Auto Convertible** In silver/navy hood with cream leather, very nice, low mileage **£13,995**

12 **JAGUAR XF 2.2 Diesel SE Auto** In black with black leather, 39,000 miles **£13,495**

12 **AUDI A5 SE TFSi 1.8 Coupe** In black, only 59,000 miles, leather seats, climate, start/stop **£11,995**

16 **NISSAN Pulsar 1.2 DIG-T Tekna** In met red, 9,000 miles, under Nissan warranty **£10,995**

60 **AUDI TT 2.0 TDI Sport Quattro** In met-blue, 83,000 mile sports coupe **£10,495**

60 **BMW 325i M-Sport Automatic Coupe** In space grey with black leather, full specification, 57,000 miles **£10,495**

12 **BMW X1 XDrive 2.0 DSE** In met red, black interior, 66,000 miles, diesel 4x4 **£9,995**

11 **VOLKSWAGEN Touran 1.6 TDI SE Blue-Tech** In met blue, 63,000 mile, diesel 7 seater **£9,995**

63 **HYUNDAI ix35 1.7 Diesel SE-Nav** In white, 57,000 miles, under manufacturers warranty **£9,795**

16 **RENAULT Clio 900 TCE Dynamique 5-Dr** In flame red, 14,000 miles with sat nav, pan roof **£8,995**

13 **HONDA Jazz 1339cc EX Automatic 5-Dr** In met-bronze, only 7,000 miles from new, panoramic roof **£8,995**

65 **SMART For Two 999cc Prime Premium** In silver/black, 9,000 miles, huge spec **£7,995**

64 **HONDA Jazz 1.3 i-VTEC Ex** In electric blue, 35,000 miles, pan-roof etc **£7,995**

13 **VOLKSWAGEN Caddy-Max C20 Kombi 1.6 TDI** In white, 90,000 miles, 5 seater with side windows **£7,995**

62 **NISSAN Juke 1.5 DCi Visia** In silver, 35,000 miles, very nice example **£7,995**

12 **MINI Cooper Chilli 1.6 Diesel** In red with white roof and mirrors, 27,000 miles high spec **£7,995**

65 **VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 Limited Edition 3-Dr** In red with black roof, 13,905 miles, 1 owner **REDUCED BY £1000 TO £7,495**

64 **VAUXHALL Meriva 1.4 SE** In met-blue, 29,000 miles, practical hatchback at **£7,495**

62 **HYUNDAI i40 Active Blue Drive 1.7 Diesel Estate** In silver, 68,000 miles, £30 road tax **£7,495**

13 **FORD Focus 1.6 TDCi Titanium 5-Dr** In black, 63,000 mile diesel hatch **£7,295**

62 **FORD B-Max 1.6 Automatic Titanium** In met blue, 29,000 mile practical hatch at **£7,295**

66 **MG3 Time VTI Tech 1.5cc 5-Dr** Only 4,000 miles, start/stop, under manufacturer warranty **£6,995**

64 **HYUNDAI i20 Active 1.2 5-Dr** In white, 21,000 miles, under manufacturers warranty **£6,995**

63 **SKODA Rapid 1.6 Diesel TDI Elegance 5-Dr** In met cappuccino beige, 49,000 miles, £30 road tax **£6,995**

13 **VAUXHALL Insignia 2.0 Diesel Estate SRI Nav VX-Line** In silver blue, 67,000 miles **£6,995**

63 **RENAULT Clio 1.5DCi Dynamique Nav-Energy 5-Dr** In met red, 49,000 miles, free road tax **£6,995**

62 **HYUNDAI i30 Active BlueDrive 1.6D** In met grey, 35,000 miles, bluetooth, cruise etc, free road tax **£6,995**

60 **FORD S-Max 2.0 TDCi Zetec 7 seater** In met-blue 69,000 miles, 2 owners **£6,995**

09 **AUDI A4 2.0 TDI SE 4-Dr** In met blue, 53,000 miles, 2 owners, bluetooth **£6,995**

08 **AUDI A3 S-Line 1.9 TDI Convertible** In aruba blue with leather, sat-nav etc, 95,000 miles **£6,995**

11 **PEUGEOT 308cc GT HDi 2.0D Convertible** In black, 53,000 miles, leather seats **£6,495**

57 **BMW 320i SE Auto Convertible** In red with grey leather, 81,000 miles, 1 owner **£6,495**

56 **MERCEDES CLS 320CDi Auto Diesel** In black, 83,000 miles, sat nav, leather seats **£6,495**

14 **DACIA Sandero Laureate 900cc** In silver, 11,000 miles, 5-Dr, Bluetooth, FSH, £30 road tax **£6,295**

64 **SKODA Fabia 1.2 SE 5-Dr** In white, 33,000 miles, full Skoda history **£5,995**

63 **VAUXHALL Astra 1.4 Excite 5-Dr** In silver, 41,000 miles, 1 owner **REDUCED BY £800 TO £5,995**

63 **DACIA Sandero 1.5 DCi Laureate** In met blue, 41,000 miles, 1 owner with sat nav **£5,995**

12 **VW UP 1.0 'Black Edition' 3-Dr** 28,000 miles, £20 road tax, low insurance **£5,995**

61 **FORD Fiesta 1.6 Titanium 5-Dr** In grey, 53,000 miles, top of the range from **£5,695**

57 **MERCEDES C180 SE Kompressor Auto** In silver, 83,000 miles **REDUCED TO £5,495**

56 **BMW 330 Diesel SE Coupe 6-speed** In met-blue with cream leather, 102,000 miles **£5,495**

14 **SKODA Fabia 1.2 SE 12v 5-Dr** In white, 46,000 miles, 2 owners, a/c, etc **£5,495**

11 **VOLKSWAGEN Polo SE 85 1.4cc 5-Dr** In red, 77,000 miles, FSH **£5,495**

08 **HONDA Civic ES Hybrid 4-Dr Automatic** In silver only, 13,000 miles from new, heated seats **£5,495**

62 **SUZUKI Splash 1.2 SZ4 5-Dr** In silver, 29,000 miles, £30 road tax **£5,295**

12 **TOYOTA iQ3 VVTi 1.3** In white, 31,000 miles, superb throughout, £30 road tax **£5,295**

12 **FORD Fiesta 1.6 TDCi Zetec Econetic 5-Dr** In silver, 70,000 miles, free road tax **£5,295**

61 **NISSAN Micra 1.2 Tekna 5-Dr** In met red, 49,000 miles with glass roof **£4,995**

10 **FORD Fiesta 1.4 TDCi Titanium 3-Dr** In electric blue, 51,000 miles, bluetooth, £20 road tax **£4,995**

09 **FORD Fiesta Zetec 96 1.4cc 5-Dr** In avalon blue, 41,000 miles, FSH **£4,995**

62 **RENAULT Twingo 1.2 Dynamique** In white, 47,000 miles, £30 road tax **£3,995**

61 **SKODA Fabia 1.4 SE 5-Dr** In red, 62,000 miles, 1 owner **REDUCED BY £1000 TO £3,995**

11 **HYUNDAI i30 Comfort 1.6 CRDi 5-Dr** In met-burgundy, 69,000 mile diesel hatch **£3,995**

11 **FIAT PANDA 1.2 Dynamic** In yellow, 19,000 miles, £30 road tax **£3,695**

08 **FIAT 500 Lounge 1.2 Diesel** In white, 85,000 miles with glass roof, alloys etc **£3,495**

60 **CITROEN C1 'VT' 1.0 3-Dr** In black, 56,000 miles, low insurance and road tax **£3,495**

08 **RENAULT MODUS 1.5 DCi Dynamique** In silver, 69,000 miles, low running costs **£2,795**

07 **CITROEN C1 Vibe 3-Dr** In red, 42,000 miles, £20 road tax, low insurance **£2,495**



12 BMW X1 XDrive 2.0 DSE
In met red, black interior,
66,000 miles, diesel, 4x4
£9,995



13 VOLKSWAGEN Caddy Max C20 Kombi 1.6 TDI
In white, 90,000 miles,
5 seater with side windows
£7,995



65 SMART For Two 999cc Prime Premium
In silver/black, 9,000 miles,
huge spec
£7,995



16 RENAULT Clio 900 DCE Dynamique
In flame red, 14,000 miles,
sat nav, pan roof
£8,995



09 AUDI TT 2.0 TDI Quattro
In black, 81,000 miles,
sport coupe at
£8,995

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Sponsorship for Barry Athletic cricket under-11s



Vale of Glamorgan Football League Round up

KARL STEEL grabbed a hat trick as **St Athan** remained top of the Premier Division following a 4-1 victory over **Cowbridge Town** with **Joe Laing** notching the other.

Rhose kept the pressure on the leaders as they trounced **Island Marine** 7-3 to stay a point off top. The goals came from a **Jordan Owen** hat-trick, **Nick Good** double, **Dave Bevan** and **Tom Webb**.

However, the looming shadow of **FC Barry Belgrade** casts a shadow over the league. **Belgrade**, who didn't play yesterday, now have five games in hand over the leaders and are five points behind.

In Division One, **Cardiff Airport** reduced **Sully Sports** lead to seven points following a conclusive 3-0 win over **Cwm Talwg**. **Cogan** secured their first win in four with a 2-0 victory over **Cadoxton Athletic** to stay fifth.

Llantwit Major made it 12 out of 12 with a mammoth 9-2 win over **Vale Madrid**, **Gethin Jennings** bagging a hat-trick, **Andy Shaw** a brace, with **Lewis Brown**, **Glyn Davies**, **Lee Tracey** and **Luke Beattie** adding the others. The win puts **Llantwit** 11 points clear, but **Cadoxton Barry** do have two games in hand. **BRT Dynamos** went third as they edged out **Barry Albion** 1-0.

Next week **Rhose** host **St Athan** and **Barry Athletic** play **FC Barry Belgrade** in a super Saturday.

HD

Latest results from Barrivale Bridge Club

THE latest results for the Barrivale Bridge Club (February 13) are as follows:

The winners for the mixed pairs session two were: 1, **Peter Millar** and **Jane Brook** 59.38 per cent; 2, **Mick Green** and **Judith Owen** 58.33; 3, **Mark Roderick** and **Noelle Bond** 57.81.

The handicap winners were **Debbie Dawkins** and **Dave Thomas**.

As always, new members are welcome at

the club and a partner may be arranged, if required.

If you would like to join us, ring any of the following numbers, 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or 01446 735592.

Whilst our current class for beginners continues to run on Friday mornings, new members wishing to start will be able to join the next beginners class commencing in September 2018.

Tim and Alan in fine form

VALE of **Glamorgan** trainer **Tim Vaughan** and his stable jockey **Alan Johns** were in good form recently.

At **Sandown Park** on Friday, **Tim's Tanit River**, a 16-1 chance, landed the **Alanbrook Challenge Handicap** Chase, coming home three lengths ahead of **Aubusson**.

At **Ascot** 24 hours later, **Tim's** five-year-old **Point Of Principal** won the opening **Ascot Schools Novices Hurdle**, beating the **Nicky Henderson**-trained **Dame De Compagnie** by the minimum distance – a nose.

A 12-1 chance, **Point Of Principal** gave **Welshman Alan Johns** his first **Ascot** winner.

Brian Lee

Barry Athletic cricket under-11s.

BARRY Athletic Cricket youth section will be wearing a new playing shirt this year, thanks to their continuing partnership with **Cadwaladers**.

The under-11s play in the **Cardiff and Vale Junior** cricket league. **Cadwaladers** have been a key sponsor for the cricket youth section over the past few years and **Barry Athletic** club members will be able to enjoy what **Cadwaladers** island café has to offer with 20 per cent discount cards throughout the season.

Barry Athletic Cricket Youth section would like to thanks **Cadwaladers** for

their support and the under-11s, with their new developing side will look forward to enjoying another competitive season in the league playing against local sides such as **Dinas Powys**, **Cowbridge**, **Vale**, **Miskin** and **Penarth**.

Mark Ellis, junior coordinator commented: "I am really pleased to be able to have **Cadwaladers** as our sponsor. They have been supportive since day one and we are fortunate to have such an established and successful organisation behind us."

"My thanks go especially to **Paul Morton**, the operational manager who has enabled this to happen."

BRIDGEND BRIDGE CLUB LATEST NEWS



LEFT TO RIGHT: **Jim Hume**, chairman, **Steve Burgoyne** and **David Crompton**.

THE latest results for Bridgend Bridge Club are as follows:

The winners of the club handicap pairs competition were **Jim Hume** and **Dave Read**; the trophy was presented by chairman **Steve Burgoyne**.

On Wednesday, February 14: First, **Dave Lea** and **Graham Norris**; second, **Linda Pinnock** and **Bill Turner**; equal third, **Tony Disley** and **John Evans**, and **David Bowen** and **David Crompton**.

The winners on handicap were **Dave Lea** and **Graham Norris**.

On Thursday, February 15: Playing north-south; first, **Geoff** and **Christine Tinkler**; equal second, **Christine** and **John Evans**, and **Rosalie Clode** and **David Newman**; playing east-west; first, **John Henson** and **Dilys Bowser**; equal second, **Marjorie Halley** and **Sheila Glass**, and **Stewart Norton** and **Ivor Hicks**.

The winners on handicap were; playing north-south, **Peter** and **Hilary Rowley**; playing east-west, **John Henson** and **Dilys Bowser**.

On Friday, February 16: First, **Peter Buggen** and **Linda Jenkins**; second **Norma** and **David Newman**; third,

Debbie and **Simon Richards**.

The winners on handicap were **Peter Buggen** and **Linda Jenkins**.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at **Nolton Church Hall**. Play is scheduled to start at 7pm, to enable a prompt start, it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, again at **Nolton Church Hall**, there is a gentle bridge session when help is available with the bidding.

All sessions are played in a friendly manner, visitors and new members are always welcome.

Lessons for beginners are being run by **Steve Burgoyne**, please contact **Steve** for further details on his number below.

On Thursdays there is a session run by **Steve** starting at 1pm on slightly advanced topics, this week's subject is how the auction might continue after partner opens 1NT.

For further information about the lessons and any other of the club activities, contact one of **Steve Burgoyne** 01656 661968 or **David Newman** 01656 649138.

A full programme at the Curre and Llangibby races

THE South Wales and Monmouthshire Point-To-Point season at **Howick** near **Chepstow** on Sunday got off to a sad start when, in a match for the opening **Members' race**, **Steve Whistance's** French-bred **War Path**, ridden by **Hannah Lewis**, and which had been made a long odds-on favourite, broke a leg after jumping the last fence when well clear of **Caroline Marles's** 11-year-old home-bred **Always Archie**, ridden by **Craig Dowson**.

A former winner under Rules for **Tim Vaughan**, **Always Archie** was returning to the racecourse for the first time in two years. Nine runners faced the starter for the Confined race and two of these, **Colorado Doc** and **Bob The Butcher** are owned and trained by **David Bridge** of the **Dunraven Stud**, **Pyle** near **Bridgend**. The heavy ground took its toll of several of the runners, but the odds-on **Colorado Doc**, the seven-year-old son of **Dr Massini**, under **Bradley Gibbs**, jumped for fun in the testing conditions and came home a distance ahead of stablemate **Bob The Butcher**, ridden by **Mr Brace's** 16-year-old grandson, **Connor Brace**.

The closest finish of the day came in the Restricted race when the favourite, **Championne**, ridden by 'Comeback Kid' **Nick Williams**, of **Ogmore by Sea**, made most of the running to win by a neck from **Double You Be**, partnered by **Ed Bailey**.

Championne is owned by **The Egerton, Chandler & Harris Partnership** and trained by former leading rider, **Jonathan Tudor**, of **Merthyr Mawr**, who said: "My 16-year-old son **Jack** does all the work. I'm afraid to go near the horse." Six runners went to post for this race and it is interesting to note that the first three to finish – **Way Wild West** was third – were the only Irish-bred horses in the race.

Nick Williams's mount **Snow Puma** was made favourite to win the following **Five, Six And Seven-Year-Olds** Open Maiden race for which there were five starters, but came down at the 10th fence.

Byron Moorcroft, having his first ride of the season on the seven-year-old bay gelding **Mason Dixon**, gained a 15 lengths win over the early leader, **Light Flicker**, the only other finisher.

Mason Dixon was a first winner for **Miss Georgia Kemeys** of **Bridgend**, and is trained in **Pontypridd** by **Kieran Price** and qualified with the **Glamorgan Hunt**.

Mr Price said: "We bought him in Ireland recently and he is easy enough to train."

Nine runners went to post for **The Roger Lewis Memorial Mixed Open Race** and only three of them came home.

Moral Hazard, a nine-year-old son of **Milan**, was given a cracking ride by **Bradley Gibbs** and jumping the last in front, went on to win by four lengths from **Pink Eyed Pedro** ridden by **Connor Brace**, with **Repeat Business** (**Nick Williams**) the only other finisher, a further 12 lengths back in third spot.

Owned by west Wales area secretary **Beverley Thomas** and **Adrian Simpson**, **Moral Hazard**, a 13-2 chance, was returning after a long lay off and is the only horse now trained by **Beverley** who has saddled many winners in her time.

"He's a darling to train and I ride him myself, but the win came as a complete surprise as he really hates the heavy ground."

It was only fitting that the late **Roger Lewis** had a race named after him at **Howick** as it was here as a 14-year-old back in 1959 that he had his first win on **April Pennant**, and that in 1980 he made his last winning ride over the **Howick** course on **Boundtoke**.

The **Open Maiden** race was won by Scotsman **Mr Frank Michael's** seven-year-old grey mare, **Bean Liath** who, ridden by 23-year-old Irishman **Shane Quinlan**, won by 15 lengths from the **Bobby Thomas** partnered **Padre Tito** with **Master Hide** (**James Jeavins**) a further 10 lengths away in third spot.

Bought in Ireland by **Mr Michael** for a friend who changed his mind and turned down the horse, **Bean Liath** is trained by **Kirstin Mellor** and is qualified with the **Curre & Llangibby**.

Quinlan, who has ridden 11 winners under Rules, was chalking up his third win between the flags.

by **BRIAN LEE**

AM welcomes Twenty20 franchise: 'An exciting new chapter for the game'

THE South Wales Central AM and Welsh Conservative Leader in The Senedd, Andrew RT Davies has welcomed the announcement that **Cardiff** will be the base for one of the new **T20** cricket franchises starting in 2020.

The eight teams that will participate in the tournament were announced by the **ECB** recently and it is hoped will replicate the successful **Australian Big Bash**.

Describing the news as "an exciting new chapter for the game", **Mr Davies** said the whole of the south Wales region, including **Cardiff**, the **Vale** and **RCT**, would benefit from the franchise.

He said: "The new

T20 tournament has the potential to put **Cardiff** on the map and bring economic benefits to the **Cardiff** will be at the centre of it.

"Hosting one of the eight teams in the new competition is a tremendous opportunity and we only have to look at what **Australia** has achieved with the **Big Bash** to see how successful it could be."

"This includes both the **Vale** and **RCT**, so it is excellent news for the region."

"I am already looking forward to our area playing a key role in what will be an exciting new chapter for the game."

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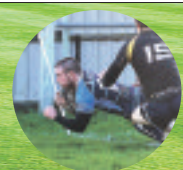
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Porthcawl RFC Firsts dominate promotion rivals – but will they rue missing out on a bonus point?



Owen Thomas with Jack Williams in support.
Photos by Tracey Williams.



Jack Williams making a break with Josh White in support

PORTHCAWL RFC Firsts finally got around to playing one of the two sides that have outpaced the others in the division this season, and they had a comfortable win against the Uplands, with a committed display.

The Porthcawl defence is by a mile the meanest in the league and they kept a further clean sheet as they prevented the second side in the division from getting anywhere near a score.

With captain Richard Hnyda on holiday in Australia, it was down to Jon Phillips to skipper the side and he put in another masterful display of leadership and general play.

It was Phillips' outstanding midfield break that set up the first try as left wing Jake Thomas sped in wide out for 5-nil.

Fly half Josh White found his range with a penalty, as Porthcawl forced the visitors to transgress at a ruck 40 metres out, for 8-nil within 15 minutes.

It was White again, this time with a punishing kick over the advancing Uplands defence, which saw Phillips speed through unopposed to grab the unconverted touchdown for 13-nil, with Uplands wondering what was afoot.

Porthcawl's relentless pack, in which flanker Owen Thomas gave an awesome display, proved to be a brick wall first line of defence, and they charged at will into the visiting half.

With this platform, White again showed superb vision to produce another kick over the Uplands defence

and left wing Thomas and centre Gareth Rees both gleefully dived on the ball for Porthcawl's third try, converted superbly by White from the touchline. The half-time whistle signalled some breathing space for Uplands, already looking a beaten side at 20-nil.

As can sometimes happen, however, Swansea got their act together a little more in the second half and frustrated all the Seaweeds' efforts to secure the bonus point try, with centre Aled Davies continually probing for Porthcawl, only for his industry to go unrewarded as chances came to grief.

No 8 Lean McNally made a superb 40-metre break for Porthcawl deep into the opposing half but a knock-on prevented the try.

The impressive Matt Cooke came on for Jamie Uren who had again had a fine match for Porthcawl, and White came off for Jordan Fox who went to full-back, with Phillips switching to pivot.

However, stubborn resistance from the visitors, coupled with ineffective finishing from the Seaweeds, saw the match peter out into a mute conclusion as the pitch proved heavy going for both sides.

For Porthcawl this was a crucial win however and with matches in hand, the Seaweeds can overtake Uplands to move into second place and an automatic promotion spot.

However, this will take a mighty effort to make each match count and confidence is good. Porthcawl welcome Pontycymmer to South Road next on March 3.

PF

ATHLETIC OUTGUN ABERAVON QUINS

Bridgend Athletic 20 Aberavon Quins 8

BRIDGEND Athletic continued their winning sequence of eight consecutive league victories with a hard-fought double 20-8 victory over Aberavon Quins.

It was their third double of the season and by the same margin of three tries to one as at the Quins' ground in December.

The Athletic's 386 league points and 52 league tries in 15 fixtures are the highest to date this season in Division One West Central.

Head coach John Apsee's pre-match team talk was simple: "Win it for Fooksy." Prop Wayne 'The Train' Fooks was making a remarkable 350th senior appearance for the Athletic over a 20-year period.

The Quins, with a breeze behind them, kicked off and caught the ball. They went through many phases causing the Athletic to concede a penalty, kicked by centre Marc Sheppard without the Athletic touching the ball.

From the restart, the Athletic regained possession and this time the Quins were penalised.

The Athletic elected for outside half Luke Bevan to kick to touch and back themselves with a driving line out.

Hooker Nathan Holman duly found No 8 Sean Williams with the throw, and the Athletic drove over the try line at pace for flanker and captain Ben Howe to

secure his third touchdown and the club's 50th of the league campaign this season.

The Athletic continued to press and when failures to capitalise on penalties from five-metre line outs and a five-metre scrum brought no joy, Ben Howe asked Luke Bevan to kick for goal.

His kick was true and the Athletic extended their lead to 8-3. With very heavy conditions underfoot and both sides not having played for a month, the game became very scrappy and a bit of an arm wrestle.

The Quins had a good 20-minute spell of possession and only a timely strip of the ball by Athletic flanker Sam Treharne prevented the Quins capitalising with a try. The Athletic were then on top as the half closed without either side further troubling the scoreboard.

The Quins started the second half on the front foot. Quins centre Lewis Cronin charged down an attempted clearance kick on the Athletic goal line and he fell on the ball to level the scores.

The Athletic then pressed hard. Locks Ben Cordin and Jonathon Stoker were held just short of the try line. The Athletic were penalised five metres short of the Quins' try line.

However, the Quins had received many warnings about indiscipline and backchat to the referee. Despite being awarded the penalty, the chat continued.

The referee's patience ran out and he reversed the penalty in the Athletic's favour and issued a yellow card to a Quins player. With numerical advantage, the Athletic elected for a



Liam Phillips' try against Aberavon Quins.
Photos by John Cannon.



Stuart Floyd Ellis with support.

five-metre scrum.

They took the ball left.

Replacement hooker Lee Murphy won the ball at a ruck. Scrum half Aled Thomas found no 8 Sean Williams in the line. The ball was quickly moved wide through centres Tom Jenkins and Stuart Floyd Ellis to full back Robin Davies entering the line and creating an overlap for wing Tom James to race over in the corner.

Man of the match Williams was also instrumental in starting the move for the third Athletic try. He spotted a three on two situation on the blind side at a ruck on halfway, drew a man and passed to prop Matt Muir who did likewise with slick hands, releasing Ben Howe to gallop along the touchline on a weaving run. He cleverly committed the two remaining Quins defenders before passing inside to wing Liam Phillips to race over under the posts.

Bevan's conversion increased the Athletic lead to 20-8. With the conditions taking toll on both sides, the game fizzled out without any further scoring.

Head coach John



Tom James wrestles for the ball.

Apsee summed up: "The month layoff cost us our normal energy in the game and with the difficult muddy conditions it was satisfactory to win."

He picked out Sean Williams, Ben Howe and Matt Muir in the forwards, and centres Tom Jenkins, Stuart Floyd-Ellis and the much-improved young wing Tom James in all his appearances this season, can guide his side over the line.

On March 10, the Athletic entertain Kenfig Hill at the Morganstone Brewery Field.

AB
Images by John Cannon

Porthcawl Bridge Club results

THE latest results from Porthcawl bridge Club are as follows:

Saturday, January 27 – First, Emer Disley and Debbie Lea; Second, Trish Saunders and Janet Richards.

Thursday, February 1 – First, Rory Gibbons and Roger Draper; Second, Pat Haworth and Gary Williams.

Saturday, February 3 – First, Janet Richards and Tony Haworth; 2nd (equal), Colin and Hazel Heard; Terry Dolan and Pat Haworth.

Thursday, February 3 – First, Gary Williams and Pat Haworth;

Second, Terry Dolan and Roger Plant.

Saturday, February 10 – First, Colin and Lavinia Thomas; Second, Emer Disley and Debbie Lea.

Thursday, February 15 – First, John Beard and Pat Haworth; Second, Keith Davison and Tony Haworth.

The club meets twice a week at the Awel-y-Mor centre. Thursdays – 6.45 p.m. – 9.45 p.m.; Saturdays – 3.45pm-6.45 pm. Visitors welcome at any time.

To contact the club, call the secretary on 01656 785794.

TH